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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Talks With France's Dumas *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Jan]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Seeking Urgent UNSC Meeting on Deportees *[Algiers VOP]* 2
'Arafat Rejects Dumas' Solution to Deportees Crisis *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Jan]* ... 2
'Abd-Rabbuh on Israeli Ruling, UNSC Meeting *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
Qaddumi Demands Sanctions on Israel *[MENA]* 3
Hamas Says Only Solution Lies in Resolution *[AFP]* 3
Hamas Dismisses 'Weak' PLO Draft UN Resolution *[AL-RA'Y 29 Jan]* 4
'Abd-al-Shafi Urges UN Sanctions Against Israel *[AL-FAJR 29 Jan]* 5
Speaker Reacts to Court Ruling, Demands Sanctions *[PETRA-JNA]* 5
'Arafat on Palestinian Differences, Clinton *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 28 Jan]* 5
PNSF Denounces PLO on Contacts With Israel *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 8
PPSF Condemns Israeli Court Ruling on Deportees *[VOM]* 9
Peace Talks Delegate on Israeli Court Ruling *[Cairo International]* 9
Butrus-Ghali Stance on Deportees Praised *[London AL-HAYAH 27 Jan]* 10
PLO's Abu-Mazin on Deportees, Peace Talks *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Jan]* 11
Court Decision Called 'Blatant Challenge' to U.S. *[MENA]* 12
'Ten Palestinian Forces' on End of PLO Contacts Ban *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 13
UN Vote on Deportees Tests Clinton Administration *[AL-QUDS 27 Jan]* 13
Israeli Reaction to Butrus-Ghali's Report Viewed *[AL-FAJR 27 Jan]* 14
Talks Delegate Urges Greater U.S. Involvement *[AL-RA'Y 26 Jan]* 14

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Iranian Embassy Denies FIS Leaders in Iran *[IRNA]* 16
OPEC President Advocates Production Cut *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Chadian President Stops in Algiers for Brief Visit *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Court Imposes Prison Terms on Ennahda Members *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Twelve 'Terrorists' of Mellouane Group Arrested *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Niger Students Occupy Embassy for Scholarships *[Niamey Radio]* 16

Egypt

Al-Baz To Meet With U.S. Defense Secretary *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Saudi Oil Minister Arrives for Visit 28 Jan *[MENA]* 17
Defense Minister, Namibian Counterpart Hold Talks *[MENA]* 17
Mubarak Views Writers' Role, al-Azhar, Censorship *[MENA]* 17
Military Delegation Ends Visit to Hala'ib *[AFP]* 17
Mining Activity in Hala'ib Described *[MENA]* 17
Minister Comments on Military Industrial Production *[AL-AHRAM 12 Jan]* 18
World Bank To Lend Money for Tourism, Environment *[MENA]* 18

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Unity Between Marsa Matruh, Tobruk *[JANA]* 18
Iron-Steel Contract Signed With Austrian Company *[Tripoli Radio]* 19

Sudan

Report Warns of Violent Response to Hala'ib Takeover *[AFP]* 19
Regime Reportedly To Receive MiG's From Iran *[London AL-HAYAH 26 Jan]* 19
Nasir Faction Said Hindering Movement of Barges *[SUNA]* 20
Relief Boats Arrive in Bor After Rebel Attack *[Omdurman Radio]* 20
TNA Speaker in Talks With Libyan Official *[SUNA]* 21

Tunisia

Israeli MK Arrives in Tunis To Meet 'Arafat *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Turkey's Demirel Arrives in Manama on Visit *[WAKH]* 22

Kuwait

State Signs Convention Banning Chemical Weapons *[KUNA]* 22
Information Minister Comments on Bosnia, Iraq *[Ankara TV]* 22

Oman

UK Prime Minister Holds Talks, Departs 28 Jan *[Muscat Radio]* 22

Qatar

Turkish Prime Minister Begins Talks in Doha *[Ankara TV]* 23
Comments on Terrorism in Istanbul *[Ankara TV]* 23

Saudi Arabia

British Prime Minister on Visit to Riyadh 23
King Gives Banquet *[Riyadh Radio]* 23
Clinches Deal To Sell Aircraft *[London PRESS ASSOCIATION 28 Jan]* 23
Meets With King Fahd *[Riyadh Radio]* 24

United Arab Emirates

Government Tightens Trade Boycott of Israel *[AFP]* 24

IRAQ

Turkish President's Comments on Regime Criticized *[Baghdad Radio]* 25
Saddam Receives Message From Russian Party Head *[INA]* 25
Promised Russian Veto on New Offensive Praised *[Paris LE FIGARO 26 Jan]* 25
Paper Hails Russian Position *[INA]* 26
Rebel Radio Reports Attack on Party Office *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 26
Kuwaitis Reportedly Transferred to Secret Jails *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 27
Arab League Informed of Airspace 'Violations' *[INA]* 27
Minister Threatens Lawsuit Over Turkish Dam *[INA]* 27
TV Transmission of Friday Prayers Begins *[INA]* 28
Talks Between Airways, French Airbus Planned *[INA]* 28
Arab Investors Urged To Join Agricultural Plans *[AL-THAWRAH 25 Jan]* 28

ISRAEL

'Excerpts' of High Court Ruling on Deportees *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 29
Rabin Briefs Diplomats Following Ruling *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 29 Jan]* 29
Sources Detail Location of Preliminary Hearings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Officials Comment on Court Ruling on Deportees 30
Rabin on U.S. Support *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Attorney General Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 30
Rabin Comments on Ruling *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Peres on UN Sanctions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Deputy Foreign Minister Interviewed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Deportation Said Not Mistake *[Tel Aviv TV]* 34
Justice Minister Comments *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 35
Shim'on Peres Visits Switzerland 36
Stone-Throwing in Khan Yunus; Firebomb in Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36

JORDAN

Officials, Media React to Israeli Court Ruling 37
National Assembly Speakers Comment *[Amman Radio]* 37
Newspapers Criticize Decision *[Amman Radio]* 37
House Decision on Segregation Criticized *[JORDAN TIMES 28-29 Jan]* 38

LEBANON

Buwayz on 'Faulty Methods' Used in Region *[VOL]* 39
'High-Level Government Source' on Israeli Ruling *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Defense Minister on Deportees, Syrian Assistance *[VOM]* 40
Hizballah Radio on Court Ruling on Detainees *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
UNIFIL Denies Planned Reduction in Force *[Beirut Radio]* 41
French Francophone Minister Arrives 27 Jan *[VOL]* 41
Islamic Jihad Official on Israeli Court Ruling *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
Iranian Charge on Support for People, Resistance *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 41
Commander Defends Army's Domestic Security Role *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Incident at al-Rumayl Phalangist Center Detailed *[RFL]* 42
Two SLA Soldiers Killed in Attack in South *[Voice of the South]* 42
Resistance Claims Over 10 Killed in 28 Jan Attacks *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 42

SYRIA

Foreign Minister Denounces Israeli Court Ruling *[Damascus Radio]* 43
UNSC Urged To 'Foil' Rabin, Court Ruling *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Israeli High Court Ruling on Deportees Viewed *[Damascus Radio]* 43
Al-Zu'bi Interviewed on PKK, Ocalan, Euphrates *[Istanbul MILLIYET 20 Jan]* 44

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar's Peace Plan Asks Rabbani To Step Down *[AFP]* 46
Fighting Continues; Western Diplomats Leave Kabul *[Tehran TV]* 46
Rocket Attacks on Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 46
'Stalemate' for Regime Forces, Rebels in Kabul *[AFP]* 47
• Afghan Uzbeks Reportedly Open Pakistan Offices *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Jan]* 47
Former King Proposes Plan To End War *[AFP]* 48
Rabbani Meeting With Iran, Pakistan Envoys Noted *[Islamabad Radio]* 48

Bangladesh

Rahman on UN, U.S. Talks, Burmese Refugees *[Dhaka Radio]* 48
Minister Assesses Foreign Currency Reserves *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 11 Jan]* 48

India

Further Reportage on Visit of Russia's Yeltsin 49
Sharma Hosts Banquet for Yeltsin *[Delhi Radio]* 49
Yeltsin's Speech to Parliament Noted *[Delhi Radio]* 50
Yeltsin on Defense Spares, Exchange Rate *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Pacts Signed With Russia *[Delhi Radio]* 51
Commentary on Ties With Russia *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Commentary Views Impact of John Major's Visit *[Delhi Radio]* 52
Iranian Envoy Talks With Prime Minister Rao *[IRNA]* 53
Orissa Governor Resigns 28 Jan *[Delhi Radio]* 53
Strategy Adopted To Reduce Fiscal Deficit *[PATRIOT 18 Jan]* 53
1992-93 Defense Export Target 'Likely To Be Achieved' *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 28 Dec]* 55
Multi-Fuel Nuclear Reactor Development Viewed *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 19 Jan]* 56

Iran

President, Indian Minister Discuss Cooperation *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Syrian Vice President Seen as Possible Mediator *[ABRAR 5 Jan]* 56
Attacks on Iraq 'Signal' From U.S. Military *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 25 Jan]* 57
Clinton Seen Using Sanctions To Pressure Opponents *[HAMSHAHRI 20 Jan]* 57
Continuing Conflict in Iraq Will 'Scorch Iraqis' *[ABRAR 18 Jan]* 58
Butrus-Ghali Accused of Making UN 'Unilateral' Organization *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 17 Jan]* 58
Egypt Accused of 'Contemptible Groveling' *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 11 Jan]* 58
Writer Questions Saudis Spending $17 Billion on Defense *[SALAM 6 Jan]* 59
Turkmen Foreign Minister Meets Nateq-Nuri *[Tehran TV]* 60
Iranian, Turkmen Ministers Discuss Transportation *[IRNA]* 60

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief on Talks With France's Dumas

PM2901104693 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jan 93 p6

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Randah Taqiyy al-Din in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Taqiyy al-Din] What topics did you discuss during your meeting with Foreign Minister Roland Dumas?

['Abd-al-Majid] We discussed all topics of mutual interest to the Arab world and France, especially the issue of the Palestinian deportees. We and France are in agreement that Security Council resolution 799 must be implemented. [passage omitted]

We also discussed the situation in the Gulf and I told Dumas that we are against the use of force against any Arab country and that dialogue is the alternative so long as Iraq implements the Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy al-Din] Could the resolution passed against Israel be listed under Chapter 7 of the UN charter?

['Abd-al-Majid] We have requested that and many circles have probably begun to understand the essence of the problem. We insist on our request and we shall see what happens. Israel's friends had hoped that Israel would not create such a problem for itself.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Dumas is under the impression that the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations will continue even if no solution is found for the deportees problem. Do you share that impression?

['Abd-al-Majid] That, for me, is a matter of personal opinion but the people concerned have the final say in this matter. I cannot imagine the Palestinians participating in the negotiations if the deportees issue continues. That would be very difficult. The peace process is important and we insist on it. Its continuation is in the interest of all parties, including Israel, particularly as it has made some headway although no rapid progress. There was dialogue but it seems that it would be difficult to continue with it while the deportees issue remains unresolved. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy al-Din] Did you discuss Libya with Dumas, and what is the situation now in the wake of your contacts with the Libyan officials?

['Abd-al-Majid] I did not discuss that issue with Dumas. The Libyan position has been flexible with a willingness to find a way out of the current situation. I have always urged the parties concerned to hold a dialogue between them to find a way out of the crisis. The Libyans expressed willingness to do so and they confirmed their agreement to have the two Libyan suspects stand trial before a neutral court, but that proposal has been rejected. The British and the Americans insist that the suspects should be handed over to Scotland. Libyan does not accept that. So the issue is now deadlocked. The way out lies in more dialogue. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy al-Din] Did Dumas explain to you what he meant by the "yellow lines" he spoke about in connection with the military strikes against Iraq, and how varied are the Western positions.

['Abd-al-Majid] It is clear to everyone that they vary, but we did not discuss that matter. All I said to him was that we, as Arab League, reject the use of force against any Arab state and hope that force would give way to dialogue. Furthermore, There is some doubt about the legality of some decisions made against Iraq. Had the no-fly zone decision been 100 percent legitimate it would not have been doubted, but that stance is illegitimate.

[Taqiyy al-Din] What was Dumas' position on resolution 425?

['Abd-al-Majid] He expressed his government's concern and insistance that the resolution should be implemented. He praised Lebanon's position on the issue of the deportees. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy al-Din] How do you assess the general Arab situation today?

['Abd-al-Majid] I do not deny that there are difficulties and differences of opinion but that is nothing new in the Arab world. The Arab world had overcome many difficulties because the elements of solidarity are greater than the elements of division. Having problems is natural but that does not mean that we should give in. We should have a dialogue. That is what is required and that is what must continue.

[Taqiyy al-Din] King Hassan II of Morocco has tried to convene an Arab summit conference but that proved impossible because some Arab parties refused to sit around the same table with others. What is your view?

['Abd-al-Majid] We are grateful for any effort made by King Hassan II. Of course, we are still suffering the effects of the crisis which faced the Arab world during the Gulf war. We need time to clear the air. What [Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister] Tariq 'Aziz said is evidence that Iraq is beginning to abandon its previous postures when it used to consider Kuwait to be a part of Iraq. There can be no doubt that Iraq's eagerness to implement the Security Council resolutions and abide by international legitimacy will expedite normalization.

[Taqiyy al-Din] Are you in contact with Iraqi officials?

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes we are continuously in contact with them. The last issue I discussed with them was that of the Kuwaiti POW's. There is a dialogue between us. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy al-Din] Is there a possibility that the Arab states might start to deal with Saddam Husayn again because they are afraid of the Iranian role?

['Abd-al-Majid] That would be very difficult. The Iranian question is another matter. Iran is an important country and it would be welcome if it wished to be a friend of the Arab states but its attitude toward the three islands [disputed with] the United Arab Emirates is unacceptable and we condemn it. Iran must withdraw from these islands. We have to ask in whose interest is this Iranian behavior? Is it in Iran's interest? Is the aim to control and impose hegemony on that region and interfere in its domestic affairs? We hope that is not the Iranian aim because we Arabs and Iranians want nothing but cordial friendly relations between us.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Seeking Urgent UNSC Meeting on Deportees

LD2801184093 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] An official Palestinian source has announced the following: The PLO is currently making the necessary contacts to hold an urgent meeting of the United Nations' Security Council [UNSC] to ensure the implementation of UNSC Resolution 799 concerning the immediate return of the Palestinian deportees to their homeland, and to take the necessary measures and sanctions to compel Israel to do so.

The official source added that the decision of the Israeli High Court has affirmed the correctness of the Palestinian stance in that this court has always attempted to provide a cover for the fascist Israeli decisions which violate international conventions, and in that this decision was basically political and serving the policy of the Israeli government.

The official source stated that the Israeli court is not the source to decide the fate of the Palestinian citizens and their rights which are ensured by the Geneva Agreement and the resolutions of international legitimacy. The source stressed that the Israeli position means the irrevocable destruction of the peace process and closes every door and prospect for the resumption of the negotiations. The United States, which shoulders the fundamental role in and direct responsibility for the peace process, is required to take an unequivocal and open attitude to ensure Israel's respect for the resolutions of international legitimacy and their implementation. The key to the resumption of the negotiations lies in removing the obstacle laid by Israel, reflected by the mass deportation operation.

The official source emphasized that the international community represented by the UNSC is required now to confirm the adoption of a single standard in dealing with the various issues by an immediate move toward the imposition of sanctions on Israel in accordance with Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter to compel it to respect the resolutions of international legitimacy, and [to confirm] that the decision of the Israeli court, which legitimizes expulsion and deportation, confirms the need to ensure international protection for the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian source saluted the steadfastness of the deported brothers in extremely harsh natural conditions, and stressed the need to reinforce the continued campaign of raising the issue of the deportees at every level. The source also affirmed that the PLO will call for an urgent meeting, at the level of Arab foreign ministers, to discuss the Arab responsibility within the framework of the UNSC to initiate a new decision that imposes Israel's implementation of resolution 799, and also the discussion of the question of not participating in the bilateral or the multilateral negotiations the date of which has been set for 9 February.

'Arafat Rejects Dumas' Solution to Deportees Crisis

PM2801160193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jan 93 p 6

[Unattributed report: "PLO Turns Down French Proposal Accepted by Peres to End Deportees Crisis Step by Step"]

[Text] London, Political Studies Center—Authoritative Palestinian sources have said that the PLO has turned down a proposal submitted by French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas offering the possibility of solving the Palestinian deportees problem in stages. In the first stage and after the return of those deported by mistake, fifty deportees would be returned in one batch under various justifications and pretexts to be agreed later.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Dumas informed Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat of this offer via intermediaries, that he emphasized to him that he had obtained Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' agreement to it, and that the proposal also stipulates that the term of punishment by deportation be reduced to six months, or one year maximum.

The sources emphasized that 'Arafat told the French that he does not accept this offer and that he adheres to the need to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799 in full. As is known, this resolution stipulates the need to return all the Palestinian deportees without exception.

According to these sources, 'Arafat told the deportees that they must not accept any compromises that do not include the return of all of them without exception. And that he also told the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership not to open any channel of contacts with any international quarter with regard to the deportees without the PLO's knowledge. And it seems that 'Arafat—despite the conditions the deportees are experiencing in southern Lebanon—has managed to organize

direct daily contact with them. And he has received messages from their leadership emphasizing complete adherence to PLO policies and directives. At this level Hamas circles have denied the existence of any disagreements between the leaders deported to southern Lebanon and their fellow-leaders of this movement abroad. The sources said that the two leaderships outside and inside [the occupied territories] complement one another and that reports about disagreements in this context are untrue and absolutely fabricated.

There were and still are rumors about the existence of disagreements between Hamas leaders among those deported from occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and its leaders abroad. These rumors indicated that Hamas leaders abroad sensed a threat to their positions after the deportation operation, which included a number of their main senior leaders in the occupied territories.

And they have also over recent weeks felt that the messages leaked to 'Arafat from southern Lebanon reflect a tendency to join the PLO under conditions different from those announced by Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, spokesman for Hamas abroad.

It is worth noting that Hamas leaders abroad insisted on certain conditions for joining the PLO. They include—in addition to obtaining 30 percent of [Palestine] National Council seats—withdrawal from the peace process which began with the Madrid conference, as well as implementation of a reform program to amend PLO conditions from within.

'Abd-Rabbuh on Israeli Ruling, UNSC Meeting

JN2801181793 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with PLO Information Department head Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh by Kamal Tarabayh on 28 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Tarabayh] Mr. Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, the Israeli High Court of Justice has legitimized the government's decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians from their homeland. What is the PLO's first reaction to this decision?

['Abd-Rabbuh] As we have stated, the decision is a real farce. The Israeli High Court actually made a political decision supporting the Israeli Government's stand because the court has no right to adopt a ruling supporting the deportation of Palestinian citizens to outside their homeland. This violates the Fourth Geneva Convention and all the international rules that govern the relationship between the occupier and the people under occupation. For this reason, we do not pay attention to this ruling, or to Israeli laws. We will address the UN Security Council. In our view, it is the only court that we can approach on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy, the UN Charter, and the declaration of human rights. We will ask the UN Security Council to adopt measures against Israel, and to set a date for the implementation of the resolution on the return of the deportees before 9 February, and we will also ask the Security Council to send a mission to implement the operation of the repatriation of the deportees and the provision of international protection for the Palestinian people under occupation.

[Tarabayh] Brother Yasir, do you intend to carry out any move on the Arab level to coordinate stands and steps to have the UN Security Council force Israel to implement its Resolution 799 on the return of the deportees?

['Abd-Rabbuh] We will call for a meeting of the Arab League Council at the foreign minister level. The council in its previous meeting in Cairo two weeks ago decided to remain in session. The call for a meeting of the council is to coordinate the Arab stand on the new UN Security Council resolution, to call for the adoption of effective measures against Israel, and to coordinate Arab steps on the question of participation in the peace negotiations. We have affirmed that we cannot participate in the multilateral and bilateral negotiations without the return of the deportees. The date for the multilateral negotiations is set for 9 February. We will not be able to participate on that date. We will also study this matter with the Arab brothers to adopt a unified stand on it.

Qaddumi Demands Sanctions on Israel

NC2901095693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0853 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Tunis, 29 Jan (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, has called on the international community to take the necessary measures to implement Security Council Resolution 799 stipulating that the Palestinian deportees be returned to their homes.

Qaddumi also demanded that sanctions be imposed on Israel to make it retract its unjust decision to expel 400 Palestinian citizens from their homeland.

Qaddumi said in a statement to MENA in Tunis today that the Israeli High Court of Justice ruling supporting the Israeli Government's decision means that this Court, as a legal body, has passed an unjust law that violates human rights and supports the Israeli Government's policy of mass deportation. He affirmed that this contradicts international law and the UN Charter.

Qaddumi said that rather than contradicting the Israeli Government's deportation decision, the Israeli Court's ruling confirmed it based on a law promulgated by the British mandate government.

Hamas Says Only Solution Lies in Resolution

NC2801142993 Paris AFP in English 1337 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Amman, Jan 28 (AFP)—The fundamentalist movement Hamas said on Thursday [28 January] that

the Israeli Supreme Court's decision to uphold the expulsions of some 400 Palestinians was a test of the United Nation's authority.

"We regret the decision," said Muhammad Nazzal, the representative in Jordan of the Islamic Resistance Movement better known by its acronym Hamas.

Most of the 415 Palestinians deported by Israel to Lebanon on December 17 are suspected members of Hamas. The others belong to the radical Islamic Jihad group.

The United Nations has ordered Israel to take back the men but Israel has refused to comply with Security Council Resolution 799, passed December 18.

U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Tuesday called for "whatever measures are required" to force an Israeli compliance.

"We regret the court's ruling which unveils the reality of the Israeli government and its adamant intransigence despite the international community's stance on the expulsion order," Nazzal said.

He told AFP that the "only solution to the expulsion question lies in Israel's commitment to implement Security Council Resolution 799."

"There should be a set practical mechanism to implement the resolution," he said.

He also accused the United States of bias in favour of Israel.

U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher on Tuesday suggested that a Security Council resolution punishing Israel would be rejected by his country.

Hamas Dismisses "Weak" PLO Draft UN Resolution

JN2901095693 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 29 Jan 93 pp 24, 17

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] The Palestinian Resistance Movement, Hamas, has announced that the PLO did not consult it before submitting its draft resolution to the UN Security Council calling for sanctions against Israel.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Muhammad Nazzal, the Hamas representative in Jordan, described the PLO draft resolution as weak, watering down the cause of the deportees who have been outside their country for 40 days now. Nazzal noted that the PLO demand to impose light sanctions on Israel spells a rescue of the Rabin government and the U.S. Administration from the impasse created by the deportee problem.

Mazzal demanded deterrent sanctions on Israel and the implementation of Article 7 of the UN Charter stipulating the imposition of Resolution 799 by force, even if this leads to the use of the veto by the United States because this will reveal the double standards of U.S. Administrations.

Regarding the effect of yesterday's Israeli High Court decision on the future of Hamas and whether this will prompt it to escalate its military operations, Nazzal said: The movement's military escalation policy vis-a-vis the Israeli occupation is not affected by decisions from Israeli institutions, including the Israeli High Court. He pointed out that the main aim of the abduction of the Israeli soldier Toledano was not to deal a blow to the political settlement, but to release the captive [Hamas leader] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. He added that yesterday's Israeli High Court decision places the international community before its responsibility and gauges the UN Security Council's ability to force Israel to implement Resolution 799.

Nazzal said that the new Clinton administration is facing a test of its genuine stand on the issue of human rights.

Nazzal noted that leader of the Palestinian peace delegation, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and other delegation members must insist on their declared stands not to go to the negotiations before the return of the deportees. He asked the PLO leadership to take the Palestinian negotiating delegation's position as a starting point and begin a new phase of dealing with the negotiation process, which has yet to move from square one after one and a half years since it began in Madrid.

On the cause of the delay in the convocation of the Fatah-Hamas follow-up committee in Khartoum, scheduled for the second half of January, Nazzal said: The Hamas delegation, represented by Dr. Mahmud Siyam and Engineer Munir Jaradah, are waiting for the Fatah delegation which has not yet arrived in Khartoum. He added: We are eager to continue our dialogue with Fatah on the basis of confronting the Zionist enemy and through serious work to escalate the intifadah and armed struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Regarding the prospects of Hamas joining the PLO, Nazzal said: In principle, we in Hamas are eager to join the PLO on the basis of the PLO reconsidering its programs. He denied that the obstacle to Hamas joining the PLO is Hamas' insistence on claiming 40 percent of the Palestine National Council [PNC] seats.

Concluding, Nazzal said: In principle, we are adhering to the principle of holding general elections among the Palestinian people to create a new PNC. Failing that, we can discuss formulas and criteria to be agreed upon, which will ensure fair representation of all the Palestinian people's strata and forces.

'Abd-al-Shafi Urges UN Sanctions Against Israel

TA2801163093 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 28 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Report by Munir Abu-Rizq]

[Excerpts] Gaza—A news conference was held yesterday in the office of the Arab Journalists Association in Gaza at the invitation of the head and members of the Palestinian delegation from the Gaza Strip and a number of legal institutions operating there. The news conference was opened with an introduction by Dr. Zakariya al-Agha, in which he elaborated on the policy of escalation being pursued by the Israeli military authorities in the Gaza Strip. This policy has been epitomized by a mounting number of deaths, excessive use of live ammunition during the Army's confrontations with Palestinian residents, and increased targeting of houses by anti-tank missiles under the pretext of the presence of wanted men in those houses.

Al-Agha stressed that this policy, which Israeli Defense Minister Rabin escalated in the wake of his predecessor Yitzhaq Shamir, seeks to deplete the Palestinian territories of their residents by terrorizing the inhabitants and forcing them to emigrate, especially under the recent collective transfer policy carried out against more than 400 Palestinians, who were deported to south Lebanon.

Al-Agha said that the continuation of these practices by the Israeli Government can only lead to the destruction of the peace process, which cannot possibly move forward under this policy. Al-Agha called on the Israeli Government to adhere to the Geneva Convention and UN resolutions.

For his part, Furayh Abu-Middyan, head of the Gaza Strip Bar Association and member of the negotiating delegation, underscored the importance of imposing international protection over the occupied territories. He considered all other measures to be inadequate in preventing the Israeli policy of suppression in the occupied territories.

Abu-Middyan lauded the UN secretary general's proposal and stressed that it should be formulated in a practical way by the Security Council. [passage omitted]

With regard to the peace process, Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi said that Israel is seeking a peace on the basis of what it wants, not on the basis of international legitimacy, whereas our Palestinian delegation insists that peace must be based on implementation of UN resolutions and total withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967.

'Abd-al-Shafi repeated his call to the United Nations and the Security Council to impose international sanctions on Israel to force it to implement Resolution 799, which calls for the repatriation of the deportees. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi refuted reports on a possible visit by the Palestinian delegation to Washington to explore the position of the new U.S. Administration. He said that the Palestinian delegation will not go to any negotiating round unless Israel backs down from the deportation decision. At that time, the delegation may decide to go to Washington for one round to explore the U.S. position.

In answer to a question, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that Israel's refusal to fulfill Resolution 799 and the Security Council's failure to force it to do so will destroy the entire peace process and Israel will bear the full responsibility. 'Abd-al-Shafi stressed that the Palestinian people's commitment to the peace process is perpetual, but the Palestinians have the right to resort to all internationally acknowledged means to obtain their rights.

Speaker Reacts to Court Ruling, Demands Sanctions

JN2801161793 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1520 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Amman, 28 Jan (PETRA)—His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, speaker of the Palestine National Council, has affirmed that the Israeli Higher Court's ruling which legalizes the Israeli Government decision to deport 415 Palestinians proves that Israel neither wants peace nor the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799 on the return of deportees. He said this shows Israel's defiance and disregard for the international community.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, his eminence called for imposing sanctions on Israel in accordance with Chapter Seven of the UN Charter. He stressed that failure to to impose sanctions in this case makes the states and peoples of the region and the world lose confidence in the UN Security Council.

Shaykh al-Sa'ih explained that all has surfaced in terms of procedures, requests, and queries by the court and other agencies to the Israeli Government. All of this was a play that indicates that there is neither democracy nor judicial independence in Israel.

'Arafat on Palestinian Differences, Clinton

JN2801112193 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 28 Jan 93 p 7

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Chief Editor Ahmad 'Allawi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] ['Allawi] Whether they disagree with you or not, the Palestinian people adhere to your leadership of the Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian people. What is the secret behind this unanimity?

['Arafat] It is difficult for me to answer this question but if I want to give some indications as to why this is, I will say that it is because we rely on the truth inspired by the Palestinian people. Our aim is to liberate Jerusalem and for this reason we will continue on the path of martyrdom on the road to Jerusalem and Palestine. God

says: We did indeed offer the trust to the heavens, and the earth, and the mountains, but they refused to undertake it, being afraid thereof. But Man undertook it; he was indeed unjust and foolish. [Koranic verses]

['Allawi] Before the Fatah Central Committee and the Revolutionary Council meetings, some tried to spread rumors on what they called splits, differences, and axes within the Fatah ranks, did you reach anything new in your latest meetings? What was the meaning of your slogan that the meetings should be held in accordance with the law of love?

['Arafat] Many people do not really know the meaning of the democracy which we apply within the Palestinian revolution cadres. Our democracy is real. We do not prevent anybody from giving his views based on Caliph 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab's saying: God bless anyone who rectifies 'Umar's conduct. What you have heard here and there is a natural expression of genuine democracy. We are proud of it, we adhere to it, and we fight for it. I may differ with you in matters of opinion but I am prepared to fight to give you freedom of opinion, as Voltaire said. We hear many views but we do not hold anyone accountable for his views. But when we meet we make our decision in accordance with the Fatah tenet: We apply democracy in matters of opinion and dictatorship in carrying out our decisions.

I must point out that we are not a party. We are a movement representing the Palestinian people and their views and we do not prevent anybody from airing his views. This is proven by facts, events, and meetings. The law of love is governing this revolution, this movement.

['Allawi] Obviously, everybody wants to be close to you and the struggle and differences are over who will be closer, who will win your trust.

['Arafat] We are proud of this fact but this is a difficult responsibility.

['Allawi] What do you think of certain Palestinian sides who have become so extremist due to differences with a Palestinian official that they use dubious media to publish statements on certain issues, deviations, and forgeries, given the fact that the shame will not affect that Palestinian official but the Palestinian leadership and people?

['Arafat] Mao Zedong said: When my enemies stop attacking me, I reconsider my plans. We listen to the views and counterviews. We are aware that as we become closer to picking the fruits of our struggle, the fierce attacks on us increase. You can see that there are forces that pay enormous amounts of money and use great resources to effect assassinations in the Palestinian arena. Over the past two months, we have lost 18 senior officers in southern Lebanon. The killings had been connected with the hired killer Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]. He is not working alone. He is given access to kill as proven by the killing of Na'im Khadr and Sa'id Hamami. They have been chasing us inside and outside the occupied territory. In the occupied territory, the Arab-clad units and battalions are carrying out Israeli plans. These units, masquerading in Arab apparel, murder people to create inter-Palestinian fighting. They use such criminals outside the occupied territory. The war is continuing. We are waging a fierce battle and the onslaught increases at the eleventh hour, as is well-known. This is a basis of revolutionary action. The fiercest battles are waged in the final hours, be they in politics or in the media, or the real battles that are going on.

['Allawi] Have you heard what happened in Gaza? Two Israeli divisions stormed Gaza. Can Gaza accommodate two divisions?

['Arafat] In the last battle in Gaza, which lasted three days, two divisions stormed the city. The occupation authorities in Gaza and Janin used tanks and planes, and they fired rockets in a battle against a young struggler, the hero Daraghimah, who was martyred after nine hours of honorable fighting. And, while we were engaged in a fierce battle some hired media and paid advertisements made several attempts to undermine and cast doubt on this revolution, but the mountain is not shaken by the storm.

['Allawi] Today, Washington witnesses the inauguration of Clinton. Mr. President, are you optimistic of a new stage during Clinton's presidency?

['Arafat] I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic. I will deal with the facts as they are. We will see whether Clinton is going to apply double standards regarding international legitimacy—a standard in favor of Israel, a standard for Bosnia-Hercegovina, a standard for the Gulf, and another in Palestine according to his wishes and the U.S. interests. Or, maybe Clinton will have one standard for international legitimacy. It is clear that there are double standards, and implementing the international resolutions against Israel will be the first test for Clinton. Resolution 338 was a reaffirmation of Resolution 242. Failure to implement this resolution should be followed by the imposition of sanctions. This is not what I say, it is what the law says. Nevertheless, Israel did not implement Resolution 242 and did not implement Resolutions 605, 607, 608, 681, and 799 which were adopted unanimously after the intifadah. Therefore, we will wait and see what Clinton will do.

['Allawi] If Clinton resumes the negotiations or the dialogue with the PLO, will this be a sign that Clinton uses a single standard?

['Arafat] We should not be greatly optimistic, and we should not forget that Clinton made dangerous statements during his electoral campaign. We have to wait and see if he will implement the slogans he made during his electoral campaign, particularly concerning Jerusalem. Will he deal with this issue within the framework of the U.S. interests? As for what he said about democracy, freedom, and human rights, I ask: Where is democracy

and human rights in Palestine? Where is the implementation of the international legitimacy resolutions in Palestine?

['Allawi] Do you believe that Iraq's recent moves to heat up the situation is intended to put the Iraqi cause under the spotlight, place the new U.S. Administration in the picture concerning the events, and learn of President Clinton's intentions?

['Arafat] The PLO condemned, denounced, and rejected the savage U.S. attacks on Iraq which are aimed against the Iraqi people and territory. We stand by the Iraqi children and the Iraqi people in this confrontation. I am hopeful regarding my brother President Saddam Husayn's statement that he wanted to begin a new page with President Clinton in the U.S.-Iraqi ties. We hope Saddam's call will fall on responsive ears in the U.S. Administration. I also support my Libyan brothers because we absolutely reject the embargo and stand by our Libyan brothers in their ordeal. We also support our Muslim brothers in Sarajevo where we find the application of two standards of international legitimacy.

['Allawi] Brother Abu-Mazin's [Mahmud 'Abbas] visit to Saudi Arabia raised many questions. Would you like to comment on it?

['Arafat] On this issue, we have decided to turn a new leaf, not a Palestinian-Gulf leaf but an Arab-Arab leaf, as I mentioned in my speech [not further identified]. As you are aware, I am visiting Sudan and Egypt for this purpose. We are also trying to open windows on Syria based on our desire to remove the effects of what happened in the Gulf. We are about to enter the new world order. Are we going to be eaten up individually or are we going to form a group to resist? Are we going to be crushed one state after another? We must be alert to this. After what happened to Iraq, I asked who would be next, and after what happened to Libya I asked who would be the third, and after what happened to Somalia, I asked who would be the fourth? It is easy to break a stick but it is difficult to break a bundle of sticks. We hold the primary responsibility for this Arab nation and we have the right to say that unless the Arabs are unified, we will never have a proper place in the new world order.

Therefore we have laid the bases and will continue to apply them to redress Arab wounds and restore Arab solidarity. I am happy for the Arab League decision. As you are aware, the decision was an Arab decision and was proclaimed by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. Therefore, for the first time there is an Arab decision on what happens. We should not forget that for the sake of the cause of the deportees, we have been able to overcome the difficulties and gather the Arab foreign ministers, who do not usually gather even for ordinary [Arab League] sessions, to discuss the cause of the 415 Palestinian deportees. We made this the springboard of Arab meetings and the session was regarded as an open session, not only to discuss the deportees issue and Resolution 799 but to regard this as a new unified Arab position toward this issue which will reflect on other issues as well.

We are in contact with all the brothers who contribute toward this Arab effort from Morocco to the Sultanate of Oman.

['Allawi] Have Gulf conditions been relayed to the PLO there? Will any improvement in Palestinian-Gulf relations be at the expense of the Palestinian relations with Jordan or Iraq?

['Arafat] Jordanian-Palestinian relations are deep-rooted and strong. Nothing can affect these relations because they are relations of joint destiny. We have been reiterating this since 1983. The Jordanian and Palestinian peoples are bound with distinguished relations, which will develop into a future confederation based on a voluntary and free choice by the two fraternal peoples. I take pride in my relationship with His Majesty King Husayn. No power can affect this relationship.

['Allawi] I have heard that his majesty the king will head an Arab reconciliation starting in Muscat. What is your excellency's comment on this?

['Arafat] I have also heard such a thing. Therefore, I say let it be a reconciliation from Morocco to the Sultanate of Oman. I said to President Mubarak: You have been successful in effecting a Saudi-Qatari reconciliation. So why not do the same among other Arab countries?

['Allawi] We have heard that the PLO has received several proposals to solve the deportees issue?

['Arafat] All of them have been rejected. We insist on the implementation of Resolution 799. We will accept nothing short of that. We insist on Israel backing down on the deportation decision. The question that is now posed to the UN Security Council and to Clinton, after Bush, is: Does international legitimacy have double standards? This is what we want to know.

['Allawi] The Knesset has issued a decision lifting the ban imposed on holding contacts with the PLO. Abie Natan visited Tunis and met with you. What is your comment on Israel's decision?

['Arafat] Natan is my friend. I received him several times. He said that he would be the first to come to Tunis. I view the Knesset decision to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO as a step forward. However, if the formula of the negotiating team is not changed, this decision will remain a step in a vacuum.

['Allawi] Do you still insist on not participating in the next round of negotiations? What are your terms?

['Arafat] We have made our position clear since the eighth round of talks when we only sent four people to take part in the negotiations. That was an expression of our dissatisfaction and refusal to go to dead negotiations.

Our position was clear and inevitable before the deportees issues. The deportations affirm this Palestinian position. We are not prepared to go and it be a cover for something else.

['Allawi] Your excellency the president, do you believe that Israel will agree to resume the negotiations with the Arab states if the Palestinian delegation fails to show up?

['Arafat] This is possible, but we should bear in mind that Rabin's objective is the same as Shamir's; that is to shelve the Palestine question. Afterward, he will try to normalize Arab relations with Israel at the expense of the Palestinians. This is an objective shared by both Rabin and Shamir. However, I do not believe that there is an Arab who will agree to that.

['Allawi] I have heard that you are exerting your good offices to settle the disagreement between Sudan and Egypt over the Hala'ib region?

['Arafat] This is a modest effort which I ask God to render successful.

['Allawi] Palestinian-Syrian relations are somewhat cool. Mr. President, what are the reasons in your opinion?

['Arafat] For us, there is no reason. We have not changed our stand. The last time that my brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] and Abu-Mahir [Muhammad Ratib Ghunaym] were in Damascus, they held successful talks there.

['Allawi] What do you have to say about Lebanese Prime Minister al-Hariri's stand on the issue of the deportees?

['Arafat] This is not al-Hariri's stand, or Lebanon's stand. This is a Palestinian stand. I officially asked them to close all crossing points and I thank them for their response. I made a difficult decision. When I returned from Yemen, I called for a meeting of the Palestinian leaders who approved my decision. It was a difficult decision, and I know the rugged nature of the area where the deportees are. I had my headquarters there on Mount Hermon during the 1973 war. I was responsible for this front. There were three fronts; the Egyptian front, the Syrian front, and the Lebanese front where we were. I am familiar with that area. It is a rugged area. I did not rest until I sent an envoy to our brother deportees and told them that this is the decision we have made at the Palestinian command. They said that they support this decision.

['Allawi] What do you have to say to the Palestinian people and to the Islamic and Arab world on the occasion of Prophet Muhammad's ascension to Heaven, which was last week?

['Arafat] By God, I see with my own eyes the minarets, the walls, and the churches of Jerusalem. And to enter your temple as they had entered it before. Glory to God who did take His Servant for a journey by night from the sacred mosque to the farthest mosque, whose precincts we did bless, in order that we might show him some of our signs: for He is the one who hears and sees all things. [koranic verses] God willing, one of the children of my country will raise the Palestinian flag over the minarets, churches, and walls of Jerusalem, the first of the two qiblahs and the third holiest mosque, the place from where Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, ascended to heaven and the cradle of Christ, may peace be upon him.

['Allawi] Will you shortly visit Jordan, and how do you assess Jordanian-Palestinian coordination?

['Arafat] Of course, I will visit Jordan. Jordanian-Palestinian coordination is at its highest level. My recent visits to Sudan and Egypt prevented me from visiting Jordan. I will visit Jordan soon to have the honor of meeting with His Majesty King Husayn.

PNSF Denounces PLO on Contacts With Israel

JN2701191193 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The Palestinian National Salvation Front [PNSF] has issued the following statement:

Based on its continuous submission to Zionist terms, in return for a role in the Zionist-American settlement aimed at liquidating our cause and national rights, and in accordance with its policy of political concession, the PLO leadership has eagerly received the Zionist decision to lift the ban on Zionist contacts with it, attempting, through illusive interpretations and analyses, to exploit this decision and continue its policy of relinquishment. The Zionist Knesset's announcement of lifting the ban on contacts with the PLO has come to urge the PLO leadership to directly join the current capitulatory negotiations and to make further concessions. Moreover, the 'Arafat and PLO leadership's dealing with this decision and their call for even more, reflect these sides' determination to continue their serial of making concessions and relinquishing the Palestinian people's right and the Palestinian cause. This will entrench determination to create an atmosphere of capitulation by the Palestinian people and the Arab nation. This is also aimed at persuading the Arabs and Palestinians to recognize and coexist with the Zionist entity, and at entrenching al-Sadat's so-called course of breaking the psychological barrier, which aims to spread an atmosphere of capitulation and defeat in the Arab arena through unconditional Zionist-Arab openness, and consequently to accept the conspiracy of autonomous rule.

Out of its national responsibility, the PNSF warns against the consequences of the Zionist decision, and against dealing with it through the influential PLO leadership. It calls on the masses of our steadfast people inside and outside the occupied territories, and on all national and Islamic factions, to adopt a decisive national stand and confront all attempts to deal with this decision. It also calls on them to shoulder their national

and pan-Arab responsibilities by escalating all forms of struggle and intifadah, and by continuing confrontations and steadfastness.

[Signed] The PNSF

PPSF Condemns Israeli Court Ruling on Deportees

NC2801154593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The Israeli High Court of Justice has ruled that the Israeli Government's decision to deport Palestinians is legal. By doing so, the court defied the UN Security Council and its resolutions. [passage omitted]

The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF] condemned Washington's double standard and collusion with the Zionist enemy on the issue. The PPSF's position was announced in a statement during a conference in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. The announcement was attended by 85 leading Lebanese personalities. A speech rally was held before the conference during which speeches by Islamic Group, PLO, and PPSF representatives were delivered. The speakers rejected the resettlement of Palestinians and insisted on the right of return, self-determination, and to establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. [passage omitted]

Peace Talks Delegate on Israeli Court Ruling

NC2901091993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, in Jerusalem, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; in the "Dialogue From Afar" program; "a short while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Dr. al-Khatib, first we would like to welcome you and then ask you what you think of the unanimous ruling of the Israeli High Court of Justice?

[Al-Khatib] Welcome to you. First, I would like to assert that we were not expecting any other ruling from the High Court of Justice. There have not been many precedents in the past where the High Court of Justice ruling differed from the Israeli Government's stand. The decisions over the past five years indicate that the Israeli justice system is no more than a tool in the hands of the political system.

Our reference, the side we look to for justice, and the judge between us and Israel regarding the issue of deportation is the Security Council, and not the Israeli High Court of Justice.

As for this ruling, it is actually disappointing. It has increased the obstacles and made the Palestinian side confirm that its stand, which looks to the Security Council for justice, is the correct stand. The ball is now in the Security Council's court. In fact, this ruling was an answer to the sides that pinned their hopes on the Israeli Court. I specifically refer here to the United States, which was trying to delay the Security Council meetings in the hopes that the Israeli Court would have a positive decision.

Now that the situation has become clear, the ball is in the court of the Security Council and we are waiting for it to convene to see what practical steps it can take to implement its Resolution 799 on returning the deportees.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Ghassan, do you believe that the time is now ripe for the Security Council to pass a resolution, especially since there are certain circles claiming that there is still room for a political solution?

[Al-Khatib] The Security Council is not an objective for us, but a means. Its resolutions are also not objectives but means to get to the objectives. If there is any side that has any other means to accomplish the legitimate humanitarian goal—the return of the deportees—then we welcome this. However, all sides have tried to mediate. The United States tried to mediate and intervene. Europe tried too. During Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel there were also some attempts. But the Israeli reaction was disappointing to everyone. Therefore, we see the Security Council as the only alternative to these attempts. The answer for these circles you are talking about does not lie with me. The answer came from the Israeli High Court of Justice.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, have you presented the Security Council with a number of Palestinian requests in light of this ruling?

[Al-Khatib] Since this ruling was taken, we have not presented the Security Council with anything. The Palestinian envoy at the United Nations submitted yesterday and the day before a draft proposal on imposing sanctions on Israel to put pressure on it to respect the Security Council resolution. We still believe that the Security Council must exert such pressure on Israel because what encourages Israel to continue its violations of Palestinian human rights is the fact that it is constantly allowed to have its cake and eat it too. In other words, it violates international law and at the same time enjoys the best relations with foreign powers. World countries, represented by the Security Council, must make Israel feel that it cannot continue to have good relations with other countries while continuing to defy international will by taking effective practical resolutions. In other words, these resolutions must be implemented, even if by pressure. Although pressure is not our objective, unfortunately, Israeli belligerence pushes things in this direction.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the United States will prevent the Security Council from imposing sanctions on Israel. In light of this new Israeli stand, do you believe that the U.S. side will behave in accordance with Israel's wishes, or have things changed in light of this ruling?

[Al-Khatib] First, we are in constant contact with the U.S. Administration through the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem or through direct relations with Washington. Our feelings are that the U.S. stand is strong as far as condemning the deportation and seeking to end it go. However, because of the historic relations between the United States and Israel, it is difficult for the United States to accept the idea of sanctions on Israel. Therefore, we believe that the U.S. strategy at this stage will be to attempt to resolve the crisis before it gets to the difficult stage of having to make a decision on whether to vote for the sanctions or use the veto to block them.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you believe this will happen soon? Things have gone on for too long.

[Al-Khatib] Yes, I believe the next few days will witness heated and crucial discussions in the Security Council, which will either result in issuing resolutions stricter than the previous one or will form some sort of pressure on Israel to adopt a more flexible stand.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the effect of these Israeli stands on the peace process? Specifically, I mean will you attend the coming round of Middle East peace talks if things continue as they are?

[Al-Khatib] We will not attend the coming round of either bilateral or multilateral talks so long as Israel has not implemented Security Council Resolution 799 and returned the deportees to their homeland.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dr. al-Khatib, what will the Palestinians do next in light of these new developments?

[Al-Khatib] In fact, there are moves in many directions. First, the PLO will hold extensive contacts with permanent and nonpermanent members of the Security Council to push in the direction of issuing more decisive and serious resolutions regarding Israel.

We are also holding contacts with European countries that have good relations with Israel for the same purpose. In addition, we are implementing large-scale media campaigns to reveal how dangerous this Israeli ruling is to the Middle East peace process in specific. As a result of these efforts, there has recently been a clear increase in diplomatic and media pressure on Israel. We hope these moves will bear some fruit.

[Abu-al-Majd] You have not discussed the Arab stands as part of these moves. Is there anything new you believe should be added to the Arab stand to put pressure on Israel?

[Al-Khatib] Actually, I forgot to mention that there is also extensive action on the Arab level. The Arab stand is sympathetic of the Palestinian stand with regard to linking our return to the talks to ending the issue of the deportation. We have recently learned that contacts are taking place to convene a meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Damascus in a short while—the time has not yet been fixed—to discuss the future of the negotiations in light of the recent Israeli deportation decision and belligerence. In fact, the supportive Arab stand is one of the most important pillars for the Palestinian stand. We rely on it a great deal. We have hopes that Arab solidarity will continue to grow together with the Palestinian stand in order to realize some gains. If the Arab stand cannot compel Israel to respect international legitimacy by implementing Security Council Resolution 799, then no Arab country can compel Israel to implement Resolution 242 in these negotiations.

[Abu-al-Majd] Ending this dialogue, we thank you for this interview over the telephone between Cairo and Jerusalem. Thank you, Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation.

[Al-Khatib] Thank you.

Butrus-Ghali Stance on Deportees Praised

PM2801163793 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Jan 93 p 5

[Report by Hashim 'Ali Mandi and Nur-al-Din al-Furaydi: "Sha'th Tells AL-HAYAH: Ghali's Report on Deportees Important, Positive Development"]

[Excerpt] Vienna, Brussels—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, yesterday told AL-HAYAH in Vienna, where he was on an official visit, that UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's report "represents an important and positive development with regard to the deportees issue and the protection of the Palestinian people under occupation."

He believes that "the time has come for Chapter 7 of the UN Charter to be applied to impose military, political, and economic sanctions against Israel in view of its violation of UN resolutions."

He emphasized that Dr. Butrus-Ghali's recommendations "that all necessary measures be taken" to compel Israel to comply with Security Council Resolution 799 "proves to Israel that the world no longer accepts the use of double standards and that it must return the deportees to their homes immediately if it wants to avoid international sanctions." And he pointed out that the peace process "will remain suspended as long as Israel refuses to return the deportees and to accept international protection for the Palestinian people."

Sha'th did not rule out that Israel fabricated the deportees issue "in an attempt to play for time and obstruct the peace process pending the worsening of the security and military situation in the Gulf or the eruption of other local and regional disputes in and among Arab states in order to freeze the peace process and shelve the Palestinian issue file once again."

Sha'th broached Palestinian-Palestinian relations, pointing out that they are "going through a good phase, especially after Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] agreement to join the Palestinian home (the PLO)."

He said that Palestinian-Arab relations too are witnessing rapid improvement. He welcomed the Syrian Government's decision yesterday to link participation in the next round of bilateral talks to the resolution of the deportees issue. [passage omitted]

PLO's Abu-Mazin on Deportees, Peace Talks

LD2801111793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Jan 93 p 5

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, alias Abu-Mazin, PLO Executive Committee member and head of the PLO Pan-Arab and International Relations Department, by Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Qulaybi] The Palestinian leadership has linked the resumption of the negotiations to the deportees' return. Do you not believe that Israel's emphatic rejection of the return principle puts the Palestinian position in a dilemma? What will the leadership do regarding that captivity [al-asr]?

['Abbas] It is Yitzhaq Rabin's deportation of 415 Palestinians which puts everyone in a dilemma. It is not our business to provide the ways out to Israel. It is responsible for this step and for tackling it as well. Our decision in this connection cannot be changed. And the Israeli Government must submit to the Security Council resolutions and go along with the collective and categorical international tendency that is completely opposed to the deportation and to many aspects of Israeli policy based until now on the erroneous principle that Israel is entitled to exemption from the international rules in force.

[Al-Qulaybi] Some people say that the cordon states are not unanimously agreed on a unified position on the resumption of the negotiations. What truth is there in this? And how can unanimity over this matter be secured?

['Abbas] We are always eager to ensure that positions are consistent and integrated. Since the peace process began we have not secured absolute unanimity over everything. But we always reach—through coordination meetings at ministerial level or delegation level—important results which help negotiators to confront the Israeli side. Of course, we will continue to work with the Arab brothers to crystallize unified positions. As for the deportation question and linking it to participation in the negotiations, the Arabs are adopting a good and responsible position seeking to resolve the deportees issue before entering the negotiations. And there is still time for further contacts and consultations so that all will adhere to a unified position that matches the scale of international support for our view of the deportees issue. And the Arab foreign ministers agreed in Cairo to leave their meetings open and to consult on our Arab position on the bilateral and multilateral negotiations.

[Al-Qulaybi] After the failure of [Egyptian Foreign Minister] 'Amr Musa's recent visit to Israel, are there Egyptian-Palestinians contacts to launch a new initiative regarding the deportees issue?

['Abbas] I do not exactly know whether the word failure is the right word for describing the results of Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Israel. But at any rate, Egyptian-Palestinian contacts are very active and do not revolve around one point or one event. It is a relationship of political coordination which is important to both sides and the cause in general. Egypt has a distinct position in the peace process and has effective capabilities and positive influence, and we must make maximum use of these capabilities. And we appreciate Egypt's position on the deportees issue.

[Al-Qulaybi] What are you expecting from the new U.S. Administration with regard to the deportees' return in particular and the peace process in general, and the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue?

['Abbas] Let us not go too far in our conclusions and in deducing policies. Clinton assumed his tasks as U.S. President only days ago. The deportees question came as the first challenge which Rabin placed in front of the new president.

Clinton appears eager to continue the foreign policy, especially with regard to the Middle East, in accordance with the lines drawn up by Bush and Baker—which is encouraging. This is because President Clinton will find ahead of him a moral and political dilemma, namely how to convince the Israelis that they will not be able to depend much on world support if they violate international resolutions. Because the United States exercises its influence under the UN flag—and here a credibility problems emerges, since how can the United States hope to make the United Nations an authority for solving problems yet at the same time ignore the insulting way in which Israel is dealing with the United Nations.

Not only is Israel rejecting international resolutions, but also addressing warnings to the Security Council not to issue these resolutions. And there is a huge Israeli file in front of Clinton. Let us wait and see how he will handle this file. However, we believe that the new administration needs to reassess the results of the rounds of negotiations in order to push the peace process forward, especially as the negotiations reached an impasse as a result of the Israeli plan proposing partition of territory and division of power, thus preventing the unity of the land and the Palestinian people—which conflicts with the foundations of the invitation to the Madrid conference and international resolutions. And we still hope that the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will be resumed, as there are no obstacles in its way, especially as Israel itself has changed its position in the light of the Knesset's decision.

[Al-Qulaybi] In your capacity as chairman of the committee following up the negotiations, is it possible for us to actually know what you personally expect from these negotiations?

['Abbas] I expect something specific. The negotiations are a fierce and complicated battle, and those leading their people and handling their cause should engage in it courageously, cleverly, and patiently. I know exactly what the Palestinians want from the negotiations, and our job, as people following them up, is to work by all possible means to achieve what we want.

Negotiations do not cancel out legitimate struggle as a means of resisting the occupation, because in numerous cases it provides further credibility and returns for this struggle. And I personally do not believe in dealing with the negotiations via the use of betting methods or general calculations, because we should delve into the complex details, build our plans on the basis of these, and not grant the other side a monopoly or the right to dictate. This is why we are continuing the negotiations and I believe that we achieve through them results whose effects we will become aware of in the future.

[Al-Qulaybi] What are the results of your tour of certain Gulf states? Can it be said that a new page has been opened between you and the Gulf Cooperation Council states?

['Abbas] Indeed there is a new page, but we have not yet written on it except a few lines. We have made contacts with our brothers after a long interruption to which we have not been accustomed since the launch of Palestinian struggle. Nevertheless, during my Gulf visits, the most recent of which was to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, I was accorded a genuine brotherly welcome. The events of the past two years have been terrible and grave and are bound to cast their dark shadows over Palestinian-Gulf relations. I spoke very frankly and openly with my brothers in the Gulf states and told them that there is right and wrong, wound and treatment, and deviation and balance. Matters were very confused and we should deal with the present for the sake of the future, not the past. And I listened to objective explanations of what happened and wise and sincere aspirations for a better Arab future. And we will continue our contacts and consultations with the brothers in the Gulf, not only to improve the atmosphere of bilateral relations, but to benefit from the Gulf's international influence to bolster the peace process and secure our national rights through it. Besides, the Gulf factor also appears as a fundamental factor in consolidating Arab solidarity and granting it the required effectiveness.

[Al-Qulaybi] After the Israeli Knesset's decision to abolish the law banning contacts with the PLO there has been reports in Palestinian and Israeli circles about the possibility of meetings being held Between the two sides in Cairo soon. What is your position on, and conditions for, that?

['Abbas] Abolition of the law banning contacts with the PLO represents an important and positive national step toward emphasizing the axiom of Palestinian representation and Palestinian authority. Perhaps the Israeli Government sees other dimensions concerning it in that decision, and it might not agree with us on this interpretation. But practically and realistically it represents an important move toward recognizing the PLO.

We have for some time been calling for a direct dialogue between the PLO leadership and the Israeli Government, especially as the PLO has the final say with regard to the question of negotiations and potential agreements with the Israeli side.

And hitherto there have been no specific ideas or steps regarding Palestinian-Israeli meetings. But if the idea is raised, we will welcome it, especially if the Israeli Government embarks on courageous steps like returning the deportees and offering practical ideas that remove obstacles to peace.

Court Decision Called 'Blatant Challenge' to U.S.

NC2801173093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, Palestine National Council secretary general, has said that Palestinian and Arab public opinion was stunned and surprised by the Israeli High Court of Justice's decision. He added that the ruling was a blow to justice and to peace loving peoples throughout the world.

In a statement to MENA, Subayh said that the decision has cast doubts on all those who talk of the democratic state of Israel and that any fair person or student of law knows that all the deportees are innocent and cannot have been involved in any violations whatsoever. He expressed his deep regret that the Israeli High Court of Justice has become part of the Rabin government and submits to its whims.

Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah's representative in Cairo, rejected the Israeli court's decision, saying that the court's ruling tried to legitimize the deportation of more than 400 Palestinian citizens.

In a statement to MENA, al-Qidrah said that the decision was made in response to the Israeli Government, which has reiterated through Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that it will not rescind the deportation decision.

He added that the Israeli stand is a blatant challenge to the international community, foremost to the United States, which is advocating a new world order based primarily on human rights. He added that the Israeli decision is a blatant violation of all human rights principles, UN resolutions, and the UN Charter.

Al-Qidrah urged the United States not to fall into the trap of blatantly supporting Israel, adding that such a stand would test the credibility of what Washington is advocating. He mentioned the statement made several

days ago by the new U.S. secretary of state that the United States supports all Security Council resolutions without exception.

He said turning a blind eye to Israel's violation of international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions will make the United States lose its credibility before the entire world.

Al-Qidrah called on the international community to act as quickly as possible to make Israel comply with Resolution 799, effect the quick and peaceful return of the deportees, and achieve international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. He noted that Rabin, in the deportation decision and his iron fist policy in the occupied territories, is trying to undermine the entire peace process.

'Ten Palestinian Forces' on End of PLO Contacts Ban

JN2701194593 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The 10 Palestinian forces [opposed to the peace process] have issued a statement. Following is the text:

During their recent meeting, the 10 Palestinian forces studied developments in the Palestinian arena, as well as the Zionist Knesset's decision to lift the ban on contacts with the PLO, and they believe that the decision is aimed at breaking the international isolation of the Zionist entity, after it has expelled more than 400 strugglers of our people and turned its back on Resolution 799 calling for the immediate repatriation of the deportees to their homeland and families. The decision also seeks to cover up killing campaigns against our people, the cracking down on their blessed intifadah inside the occupied homeland, a growing number of martyrs, and the wounding of scores of our sons, including large numbers of innocent children.

The decision is also aimed at normalizing relations between the Zionist enemy and the dominant leadership of the PLO as the ninth round of negotiations in Washington approaches. It also aims to get the Arab and Palestinian mentality used to the idea of recognition and coexistence with that Zionist entity.

'Arafat's response to the delusions of the Zionist decision, by calling for a meeting with Zionist enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, constitutes a new step on the path of offering more concessions to the Zionist enemy.

The 10 Palestinian forces warn the dominant leadership of the PLO against pursuing this destructive, capitulatory, al-Sadatist course, and reaffirm their rejection of the current negotiations between the Zionist enemy and a Palestinian party which does not represent our people and does not express their national will. The forces also call once again on the Palestinian negotiators to immediately withdraw from negotiations.

The 10 Palestinian forces also discussed the conditions of the brother Palestinian deportees. While they salute the brother deportees for their steadfastness, their firm rejection of deportation, and for their continued demand to return to their homeland, the 10 Palestinian forces stress the need to continue struggle to return the deportees to their homeland, and to confront all the suspect projects aimed at saving the Zionist enemy from its crisis and obliterating the issue of the deportees to open the door for future deportations.

The 10 Palestinian forces pledge to our people's masses inside the homeland and in the diaspora to continue their struggle to foil all projects and liquidation conspiracies being concocted by the Zionist-American enemy, including the conspiracy of administrative self-rule.

[Signed] The 10 Palestinian forces

UN Vote on Deportees Tests Clinton Administration

TA2701193693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 27 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "Ghali's Recommendations—A Difficult Test for the Clinton Administration"]

[Text] The report presented by Butrus-Ghali to the UN Security Council two days ago, in which he called for the adoption of all necessary measures for implementing all the Council's resolutions—the latest being Resolution 799—on the Palestinian problem, is a delicate expression of what various nations of the world, above all the Palestinian people, feel about the international organization's double standards. It deals with Iraq through force, threats, and bombardment by planes and missiles while overlooking the implementation of scores of moderate resolutions opposed by Israel.

We would like Israel to return the deportees, today rather than tomorrow, out of its own conviction, before the Security Council meets to discuss the secretary general's recommendation and in order to spare the new U.S. Government the embarrassment of having to adopt a decisive and difficult position during the Council's deliberations. Will this government support international legitimacy and implementation of the resolution in favor of which it voted? Or will it ignore everything by appeasing Israel and yielding to the pressure of the Jewish lobby in America?

Perhaps the Israeli and U.S. reaction, in its present form, to Ghali's report does not encourage the fostering of the impression that the deportee crisis will end soon. There is a tendency by Israel and perhaps by the United States to prolong and dilute the crisis within the framework of their joint aim, namely, avoiding a U.S. vote in favor of measures against Israel.

Moreover, Israel's threat to use the card of negotiations and the peace process, and waving this card before the

Security Council whenever there is reference to implementing pro-Palestinian UN resolutions, arouse doubt about the seriousness of Israeli intentions toward the peace process, which has stalled for more than a year. We also have to ask: What is the connection between deportation—a wrong measure in all human, civilized, and legal standards—and the peace talks? Does deportation and the persistence not to back down from it enhance the peace talks, or does it threaten to freeze and halt the talks?

The prestige of the United States has now been put to the test through the position that it will adopt when voting for a mechanism to implement Resolution 799. If the United States supports international legitimacy, which is inclined toward repatriating the deportees, skepticism over the circumstances of its intervention in Iraq might partially diminish. If, however, it uses the veto against the international consensus, it will strengthen the impression that has begun prevailing in various countries of the world to the effect that the new world order is no more than a return to the eras of hegemony and the domination of force, caprice, and duality in U.S. standards.

Israeli Reaction to Butrus-Ghali's Report Viewed

TA2701162393 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
27 Jan 93 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Ghali's Report to the Security Council—Legitimacy or Illegitimacy"]

[Text] As soon as the Israeli Government heard of the report presented by UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to the Security Council two days ago, in which he called on the Council to adopt the necessary measures to compel Israel to implement Resolution 799, Shim'on Peres, this government's foreign minister, began railing against the United Nations. At the same time he appealed to Washington to use the veto to block any resolution—imposing sanctions on Israel—that might be issued by the Council in the coming days.

Observers note, in this context, that the United Nations had placated Israel a great deal with regard to Resolution 799 and had been very patient throughout three visits by the UN secretary general's envoys, James Jonah and Chinmaya Gharekhan, who tried to convince the Israeli Government that the resolution should be implemented and the deportees be returned to their homes and kinfolk. The Israeli Government, however, was not convinced at all and continued, through statements by its prime minister and various ministers, to repeat its stance—categorically rejecting this resolution.

What was the Israeli Government expecting? That, for example, Mr. Butrus-Ghali would fold his report and put it in his drawer without paying heed to international legitimacy, represented by the United Nations, before all countries and peoples? Or that the world would suffice with the Israeli High Court's decisions and verdicts about a purely legitimate international matter?

Peres has threatened that the moment the Security Council issues its decision to impose sanctions on Israel—as long as the Israeli rejection continues—the peace process in the region will be completely stifled!

In the face of this threat, we would like to ask: What is the basis of the peace process? Isn't international legitimacy, represented by Security Council resolutions, the essence of this basis? Then, how does the peace process get stifled if those resolutions, including 799, are implemented?

What is becoming clear now, without the slightest ambiguity, is that the Israeli Government's concept of the peace process is neither based on international legitimacy nor on Security Council resolutions—from 242 and 338 to 799—about the presumed political settlement. Consequently, this concept is deceptive and unprepared for the peace proclaimed by all the phase's slogans.

Ultimately, what will the Clinton administration stance be? Will this stance hinder the convening of the Security Council so that the administration will not be obliged to use the veto? Or will it use the veto after Washington had stopped using it over the past two years? And if this veto is used, what will be left of the remainder of international legitimacy?

Important questions, but what is more important as far as we are concerned is for international legitimacy to prevail and for the deportees to return to their kinfolk and homeland by virtue of this legitimacy.

Talks Delegate Urges Greater U.S. Involvement

JN2601160993 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
26 Jan 93 p 21

[Report by 'Awdah 'Awdah]

[Text] A Palestinian negotiator has announced that a conference of foreign ministers from Arab states taking part in the peace process, including Egypt, will be held in Damascus in the middle of next week to define an Arab stand on the forthcoming negotiations and the issue of Palestinian deportees.

Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, member of the Palestinian delegation, emphasized to AL-RA'Y that resuming the peace negotiations in Washington is linked not only to returning the deportees, but also to whether progress is made in the Israeli stand on basic issues such as control over Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, a permanent halt to settlement activities, and respect for Palestinian human rights.

He said: The upcoming Palestinian-U.S. meeting in Washington, scheduled for the end of this month, is aimed at changing the U.S. role from that of host to an effective mediator.

Dr. al-Shu'aybi added: In this course, preparation for this meeting is underway. Members of the Palestinian

delegation include Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegations' steering committee, Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the delegation, as well as Dr. Ghassan al-Khatib and Dr. Su'ad al-'Amiri, members of the Palestinian delegation.

He expected Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi or one of his deputies, Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat or Dr. Nabil Qassis, to head the Palestinian delegation to the meeting.

He indicated that yet-to-be named members from outside the occupied territories will participate in the scheduled U.S.-Palestinian meeting.

He also noted that dialogue with the U.S. sponsor began with the previous U.S. Administration and is continuing with the new one, which has retained the old State Department team—including Edward Djerejian, Dennis Ross, and Kurtzer—that handled the peace process. This should, undoubtedly, help when the dialogue with the Americans resumes.

Dr. al-Shu'aybi urged the U.S. sponsor to keep its promises contained in the letters of assurances. He also called for a Middle East settlement in the spirit of the letters of invitation predicated on UN Security Council Resolution 242, and urged that the Palestinian people be given full authority to run their affairs during the interim period.

Given its higher human rights profile than the outgoing administration, the new U.S. Administration will be put to the test not only by the countries involved in the peace process but by the whole world, declared al-Shu'aybi.

He added: "Now that the Israelis decided to revoke the ban on contacts with the PLO, the United States should resume official contacts with the PLO."

Dr. al-Shu'aybi said that the level of any Palestinian-Israeli meetings in Cairo will be determined by the level of the Israeli team. If the Israelis send Knesset members, their Palestinian interlocutors will come from the Palestine National Council.

The Palestinian delegation, al-Shu'aybi pointed out, recommended in a message carried recently by Faysal al-Husayni to the Palestinian leadership in Tunis that a more visible role be sought from the Europeans in the bilateral as well as multilateral talks.

The message underscored the need for Arab coordination to thwart Israel's bid to stir up differences between Arab negotiators and to conclude separate deals with the Arab partners in the negotiations.

Algeria

Iranian Embassy Denies FIS Leaders in Iran

LD2801184593 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Algiers, Jan. 28, IRNA—The Iranian Embassy here today denied a press claim that Rabeh Kabir, one of the leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and Osama Madani, the son of the jailed FIS leader Abbasi Madani, were in Tehran.

The Algiers-based French language daily "LE JOURNAL" in its Monday's issue alleged that Kabir and Madani were currently in Tehran to participate in celebrations marking the 14th anniversary of the Islamic revolution's victory in Iran.

The Iranian charge d'affaires to Algiers in a telephone call to the daily's editor in chief refuted the claim as "false" and asked him to publish the denial of the allegation.

OPEC President Advocates Production Cut

LD2701210393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] The OPEC president has handed a message from Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to Mr. Ali Kafi, president of the Higher State Council. Mr. Alirio Parra, who was met early this afternoon by Energy Minister Hacene Mefti, spoke of full support for an adjustment in the reduction of crude oil production. Mariam Yacine was there:

[Begin Parra recording, in English] I believe that there is complete support for an adjustment of production, in other words for a cut of production at the next meeting. We wish to stabilize market and to allow prices to rise to a level which will be remunerative for all the producing countries. So I have had complete support at each stop and in each country that I have visited so far. [end recording]

[Yacine] [words indistinct] for a figure for the cut of production. The answer of Mr. Parra:

[Begin Parra recording, in English] I am afraid I am reluctant. I believe I did say, I gave a figure, but I am a bit reluctant to give exact figures because the final decision is in the hands of each member country. What we aim to do is to remove a significant amount of oil from the market in order to balance it. [end recording]

[Yacine] Before coming to Algiers, Mr. Parra visited five Gulf countries. He also met the Saudi oil minister in Paris last week. When he left Abu Dhabi this morning, Mr. Parra said that the cut of production must be started as early as 1 March, to help a recovery of crude oil prices. On the Algerian side, it was said by sources close to the Ministry for Energy that the reduction in the second quarter of the year will have to be substantial and judiciously allocated to avoid a collapse of the market.

Chadian President Stops in Algiers for Brief Visit

LD2701203593 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] During his trip back from Paris to Ndjamena, Chad's President Idriss Deby made a stopover in Algiers. He was received by the president of the Higher State Council, Mr. Ali Kafi. At the end of the meeting, Chad's president recalled before the press the excellent relationship between the two capitals.

Court Imposes Prison Terms on Ennahda Members

LD2801093693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The military court in Ouargla has pronounced its sentences against those who appeared before it on 14 January. The sentences vary from one to eight years imprisonment, while two people were acquitted. Ali Kemmouche, a lecturer in physics and member of the Ennahda Party, and Ibrahim Chaoui, an officer in the People's National Army, were sentenced to eight years in prison. The remaining five were sentenced to five years in prison.

The court also pronounced five three-year imprisonment sentences, five two-year imprisonment sentences, and three one-year imprisonment sentences. The prosecutor declared his intention to appeal against the sentences.

Twelve 'Terrorists' of Mellouane Group Arrested

LD2701230193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Twelve terrorists of the Hammam Mellouane group have been arrested. According to the national gendarmerie, which has provided this information, the group has been wanted since 11 January. The former head of the commune of Tablat is among those arrested.

Niger Students Occupy Embassy for Scholarships

AB2801224293 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1900 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The 86 Niger students in Algeria today began a 24-hour sit-in at the Niger Embassy in Algiers to press for the payment of their scholarships. This is what Mahamane Abdourahmane, the Niger Students Union general secretary in that country, told AFP, adding that this action occurred after two ultimatums sent to the transitional government. Furthermore, he stated that the government has not yet found a solution to the accommodation problem confronting them for more than two years now. This action, according to the students'

spokesman, is also aimed at supporting their comrades in Niger in the struggle they launched to save the education sector.

Egypt

Al-Baz To Meet With U.S. Defense Secretary

NC2901083293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, meets today in Washington with U.S. Secretary of Defense Les Aspin. They are expected to discuss the security of the Middle East region, especially that of the Gulf region, and the importance of establishing permanent peace in the region. This meeting comes within the framework of contacts Dr. al-Baz is holding in Washington with personnel and ranking officials of the new U.S. Administration.

Saudi Oil Minister Arrives for Visit 28 Jan

NC2801201593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 Jan (MENA)—Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir arrived here this evening on a visit of a few days. He was met at the airport by Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources. The two ministers will discuss bilateral cooperation in the field of petroleum industries as well as joint projects.

Defense Minister, Namibian Counterpart Hold Talks

NC2801081893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1348 GMT 27 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Jan (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi conferred with visiting Namibian Defense Minister Peter Mueshihange and his accompanying delegation at the Defense Ministry today. They discussed ways to consolidate and promote military relations and cooperation. Lieutenant General Salah Halabi and senior Armed Forces commanders attended the meeting, which followed yesterday's talks between Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Namibian Prime Minister Hage Geingob attended by the Egyptian and Namibian defense ministers.

Mubarak Views Writers' Role, al-Azhar, Censorship

NC2601114593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1044 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized writers' and intellectuals' role in dealing with extremism and terrorism.

Answering a foreign reporter during the inauguration of the International Book Fair today, the president said writers and intellectuals have a very important role in showing the truth; they should not be biased and should always speak the truth.

On recent measures taken by al-Azhar against some writers, Mubarak said: In any comment, al-Azhar demonstrates commitment to our faith; we cannot tell al-Azhar not to act. But we have great resilience, even in al-Azhar.

Asked whether there are new rules of censorship, President Mubarak said: Do not worry about this.

Military Delegation Ends Visit to Hala'ib

NC2801150093 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, Jan 28 (AFP) - Egyptian military officials on Thursday [28 January] ended a visit to Hala'ib to register the inhabitants of the disputed oil-rich region on the border with Sudan, the daily AL-JUMHURIYAH reported. The paper said Defense Ministry officials issued Egyptian birth certificates and identity cards to members of the al-'Ababidah and al-Bashshariyah tribes living in the triangle of Hala'ib bordering the Red Sea. Draftees need identity cards for military service.

The committee's week-long visit to Hala'ib was part of measures Egypt has taken to strengthen its claim to the region, which is rich in oil and has been the source of friction between Cairo and Khartoum.

On December 31, Sudan asked the United Nations Security Council to intervene and secure a withdrawal of "Egyptian military and civilian personnel" in the disputed zone.

The Egyptian press Thursday quoted Sudan's leader, General 'Umar al-Bashir, as saying that "Hala'ib is 100 percent Sudanese" and that "the Egyptian troops sent to Hala'ib do not scare Sudan."

The pro-government AL-JUMHURIYAH editor, Samir Rajab, said in reply: "Egypt has no intention of spilling Sudanese blood" but "Hala'ib is indisputably Egyptian."

In early January, Egyptian Transport and Communications Minister Sulayman Mutawalli said his country would pave several roads in Hala'ib. In addition to stepping up its military presence in Hala'ib, Egypt last year adopted several measures to consolidate its sovereignty over the border triangle and declared that thousands of Egyptians would be settled there.

Oil Minister Hamdi al-Banbi has said Egypt would go ahead with plans to search for oil off the coast of Hala'ib.

Mining Activity in Hala'ib Described

NC2601091193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1321 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 25 Jan (MENA)—Engineer Fikri al-Mursi, president of al-Nasr Phosphate Company, a

public business sector company, has announced that a plan is being outlined to complete the necessary mining research to identify all the ores in Hala'ib. This would allow the ores to be mined economically and the region to develop, he said. He stressed the need to increase production of high-purity manganese ores.

Al-Mursi said the extraction of magnesite is also being studied to meet the needs of Egyptian thermal factories that import the metal.

He said the company is being supplied with all the equipment it needs to expand its mining activity to include other metals such as barite, which is used for digging oil wells, and which is now being imported.

Al-Mursi said an operation to transport 20,000 tons of manganese to Abu Zanimah in southern Sinai is under way. He explained that al-Nasr Phosphate Company, which has operated in Hala'ib since 1961, has signed a contract to transport 60,000 tons of manganese to the Sinai Manganese Company over three years—20,000 tons a year.

Al-Nasr Phosphate Company signed a contract with the Public Nile Company for Direct Transport, another public business sector company, to transport the metal by land to the ferromanganese factory in southern Sinai.

Al-Mursi said the Red Sea port of Abu Ramad is now being prepared to ship ores from Hala'ib to reduce the coast of transport. He noted that sea transport is more economical than land and said the company plans to export Hala'ib manganese, for which it has had offers.

The president of al-Nasr Phosphate Company, which employs 400 workers in Hala'ib alone, said mining activity in Hala'ib started in 1912.

He said housing units are being built for company staff in Hala'ib. Two electric power stations are also being established in Abu Ghusun and Abu Ramad as part of the company's activity. He said water tanks with a capacity of 1,400 cubic meters have been built to meet the needs of the workers, because water is scarce in such regions. [passage omitted]

Minister Comments on Military Industrial Production

NC2801172093 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] Dr. Engineer Jamal-al-Din al-Sayyid, minister of state for military production, said that the military industrial sector is capable of meeting all types of ammunition needs for the Armed Forces. The military industrial sector, along with the Armed Forces, is trying to improve its arms, ammunition, and equipment to meet international production standards.

At yesterday's [11 January] meeting of the People's Assembly Defense and National Security Committee, chaired by Kamal Henry Badir, al-Sayyid said that the military industrial sector currently produces well over 90 percent of the Armed Forces' heavy weapons. He added that the heavy weapons project has been completed soley through Egyptian effort. This sector currently produces heavy and medium artillery, tank artillery, and spare parts. It is developing its production of medium artillery and rockets to establish an integrated air defense system in cooperation with certain foreign countries and companies. It is also developing specific older model tanks, he noted.

Al-Sayyid said one of the major heavy weapons projects—the production and repair of armored vehicles—which began in July, has been completed. He said the official opening will be held shortly, adding that the project was not funded by U.S. grants.

Al-Sayyid pointed out that 71 percent of the military industrial sector's production goes to civilian use in items such as agricultural machines, irrigation pumps, diesel engines, electric generators, cables, automated and semi-automated bakeries, and spare automobile parts. He said: We constantly develop our industrial products to compete with international production. He pointed out that investment in this sector currently totals 800 million Egyptian pounds.

Al-Sayyid also said the military industrial sector will remain part of the public sector and will not be turned into a private business sector due to the demands of government domestic and foreign policy planning.

World Bank To Lend Money for Tourism, Environment

NC2701065993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1950 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 Jan (MENA)—Egypt and the World Bank this evening signed three agreements in accordance with which the bank will lend Egypt $130 million for a project to develop the basic structure of the tourism sector and environmental protection. [passage omitted]

The loan will be repaid over 20 years, including five years' grace, with a variable interest rate averaging 7.43 percent and a commitment charge of 0.25 percent.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi on Unity Between Marsa Matruh, Tobruk

LD2801201493 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Tripoli, A'ina Al-Nar [January] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution re-asserted the natural unity of the area between Marsa Matruh and Tobruk in respect of population, and the tribes of the area. The leader of the revolution said that this issue has been discussed during his visit to the Arab

Republic of Egypt last week. He said that during his meetings there he spoke about the means of jointly developing this area.

The leader said that very shortly electricity grids would be connected between the two countries. He added that Libya is still deficient in electricity and indicated that electric links with this and Morocco which in turn works for connecting its electricity with Spain through Gibraltar could be established is also possible that the Arab Levant will be linked to Turkey which will be connected to Europe within a plan aimed at electrifying the whole Mediterranean Basin.

The leader described this as an excellent, progressive project and said this is the example of the world connected by telephone and transport.

Iron-Steel Contract Signed With Austrian Company

LD2501181193 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 25 Jan 93

[Text] A contract was signed this morning at the Arab Libyan Iron-Steel Company for the implementation of the third unit of the direct reduction factory for the manufacture of cast iron at the Misrata iron-steel complex.

The contract, the total value of which is 65 million Libyan dinars, was signed by the brother secretary of the administrative committee at the company and, on the Austrian side, by the manager of the Austrian contracting company, Fauseline.

After signing the contract, the brother secretary of the administrative committee gave a speech in which he lauded the existing cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Austria in the field of industry. He said that the Great Jamahiriyah was continuing with the implementation of its development, economic and industrial plans, their optimum utilization and the mobilization of all human resources for the enhancement of its industries, in spite of the coercive measures being imposed on it with the aim of hampering its development plan.

The manager of the Austrian contracting company also gave a speech in which he stressed the importance of cooperation between the two countries in various fields, especially the industrial sector.

Sources at the Arab Libyan Company for Iron-Steel in Misrata said that with the implementation of this vast project, the Great Jamahiriyah's production of iron-steel would reach about two million tons a year. They made clear that cast spong-iron was a novel product at the world level.

The sources also made clear that this factory was the first of its kind in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. It added a new dimension to the iron-steel complex and placed it in a unique position to export its surplus production to world markets, where Europe's demand alone for this material was estimated at about 4.5 million tons a year.

Sudan

Report Warns of Violent Response to Hala'ib Takeover

NC2901115993 Paris AFP in English 1135 GMT 29Jan 93

[Text] Manama, Jan 29 (AFP)—Sudan will respond "with violence" to Egypt's efforts to assert its sovereignty on the disputed oil-rich region of Hala'ib, a Sudanese official warned in a report published Friday.

"The series of Egyptian aggressions does not leave any other choice but to respond with violence," the unidentified official said in the Arabic-language newspaper AL-HAYAT, published in Manama and other Arab capitals.

He did not say what measures would be taken but warned that "contacts by diplomatic channels between the two countries are no longer sufficient to convey Khartoum's protests and reservations toward Egypt's actions."

"The occupation of Hala'ib and measures aimed at forcing Sudanese citizens to accept Egyptian identity cards show that Cairo seeks the annexation of this region," he charged.

Egyptian defense ministry officials have visited Hala'ib and issued Egyptian papers to members of the al-'Ababdah and al-Bishariyah tribes living in the triangle bordering the Red Sea, the Cairo daily AL-JUMHURIYAH reported Thursday.

The Sudanese official said Egypt, which is home to three million Sudanese, was pushing Khartoum to "call for a meeting of the U.N. Security Council."

Sudan in December requested that the Security Council intervene to obtain the removal of "Egyptian military and civilian personnel" from Hala'ib.

The defense ministry delegation's week-long visit to Hala'ib was part of measures Egypt has taken to strengthen its claim to the region, which is rich in oil.

Regime Reportedly To Receive MiG's From Iran

PM2801163993 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Jan 93 p 6

[Mu'awiyah Yasin report: "Former Sudanese Deputy Chief of Staff Tells AL-HAYAH: We Have Evidence Regarding Transfer of Iraqi Aircraft From Iran to Sudan"]

[Excerpts] London—A Sudanese military figure opposed to Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir's regime

insists that the information he disclosed about an Iranian-Iraqi-Sudanese agreement which, he said, provides for the transfer of Iraqi MIG-23 aircraft to Sudan to be used in raids on antigovernment forces in southern Sudan is true. He criticized what he called corruption and failure to select honest people to run the state's institutions under the democratic regime overthrown by Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir's group. That, he said, should not be repeated after the overthrow of the current regime.

Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Rahman Sa'id, former Sudanese Army deputy chief of staff for operations, who leads the military opposition to the Sudanese regime, said in a telephone interview with AL-HAYAH from his headquarters in Cairo that "we have evidence to support what we say. We will not reveal our sources, but our information came from Sudan and we did not disclose it before verifying its authenticity." He refused to say what that evidence was.

The day before yesterday Ra'uf Shebani, head of the Iranian interests mission in Cairo, denied the information revealed by Lt. Gen. Sa'id, but the latter has pointed out that the Iranian-Iraqi-Sudanese agreement provides for the transfer to Sudan of Iraqi MIG-23 aircraft that were smuggled to Iran during the 1991 Gulf war. The agreement, he added, does not provide for the transfer of any other type of aircraft "because Sudan cannot provide ground facilities and maintenance for aircraft other than MIG's." He also said that Sudan has recently received quantities of small and medium weapons from Iran "and our information in this connection is correct and taken from within the Sudanese Army." The agreement, he further said, provides for the return of the aircraft to Iraq directly, not via Iran.

He said that the Sudanese Government wants to use these planes in an attack it intends to launch on its opponents in the south this coming February. Although a similar offensive launched by the Sudanese regime last year cut down the area under the opponents' control, Lt. Gen. Sa'id said that "however small the targeted area is, the use of aircraft makes it easier for the ground forces to occupy it without significant losses."

Lt. Gen. Sa'id admitted divisions within the ranks of the groups opposed to the regime, but he said that "divisions and partisan unrest will not force us to abandon what we believe in. We in the armed forces are capable of uniting the opposition forces so long as we are convinced of the [opposition] grouping's charter."

He expressed the view that "every party should make some concessions." He added the current divisions do not mean that the grouping is bad as a framework for opposition, and "that is why I am not worried In the end we will let the charter to which we all committed ourselves be the judge." [passage omitted]

Sa'id warned that whatever the current regime does, the problem of the south "will never be solved by one party and will never be solved through agreement between the People's Army [SPLM] and Lt. Gen. al-Bashir." He added that one rebel in the jungles of the south could annoy the entire government army. He also said that the towns liberated by Khartoum were besieged by the opposing forces, but the Sudanese authorities have repeatedly refused to admit that.

Nasir Faction Said Hindering Movement of Barges

EA2701143993 Khartoum SUNA in English 1638 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Jan (SUNA)—Transitional National Assembly's (TNA) peace committee has denounced attempts by outlaws' movement's [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] Nasir faction to hinder the journeys of relief barges to the south. The committee said in a statement it issued Tuesday [26 January] that such act comes in the context of the group's attempts to use food as a political weapon, in violation of agreements concluded recently on the delivery of relief commodities to the southern states.

The attempts by [the] Nasir faction are considered as a clear violation to human rights as well as the agreements and conventions signed between the Sudanese Government and the outlaws' movement, under the auspices of the U.N, the statement said.

It affirmed that the Sudanese Government would continue to fulfil all its pledges made in the relief conference held in Nairobi last December.

The Nasir faction attempted recently to hinder the movement of barges carrying relief supplies to Bahr al-Jabal area [in Upper Nile State]. The barges were moving under U.N. flag.

Relief Boats Arrive in Bor After Rebel Attack

EA2801222593 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The al-Muqran and al-Tabaldiyah steamers which are carrying great quantities of relief materials have arrived in Bor, after being subjected to robbery and looting by a force of the outlaws from the Nasir faction in Lake Jur which is situated between Adok and Shambe, about 499 km south of Malakal.

Informed sources noted that the outlaws forced the relief steamer al-Muqran to enter into Lake Jur while detaining the second steamer by the shores of the Nile. The outlaws also disengaged, at gun point, three (?barges) carrying 1,300 tonnes of crops and oils, in addition to 139 sacks of [powdered] milk.

The sources affirmed that the second commander of the outlaws group which carried out the robbery and looting operation, reported that rebel Riak Machar had ordered them to take all their rations from the steamers. The sources pointed out that the property and belongings of 39 of the seamen working in the two steamers were

taken. They were subjected to shooting, in addition to mistreatment, although these seamen were committed to the humanitarian work to save innocent people and those affected by the war.

TNA Speaker in Talks With Libyan Official

EA2801192393 Khartoum SUNA in English 0914 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Khartoum, 28 Jan (SUNA)—Speaker of the Transitional National Assembly (TNA), Muhammad [al-Amin Khalifah] here Wednesday [27 January] met the secretary of the unity secretariat at the Libyan Jamahiriyah, Jum'ah al-Fazzani. The meeting discussed the friendly relations between the two countries and the proposal related to the formation of a joint consultative body to include the TNA, the Public People's Congress [Libyan General People's Congress] and the sectoral and unions' association under the name "the Joint Sudanese-Libyan Arab People's Congress".

Khalifah has affirmed Sudan's support of the efforts aiming at strengthening integration between Sudan and Libya.

In a press statement following the meeting, the secretary-general of integration, Faruq al-Bushra, said that the meeting has focused on successes of the integration. On the formation of the Joint People's Congress, al-Bushra said that it would push forward the integration between the two countries.

Tunisia

Israeli MK Arrives in Tunis To Meet 'Arafat

TA2801203993 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Ya'el Dayan arrived in Tunis this evening to meet Yasir 'Arafat. MK Dayan's step has been severely criticized. Among others, Prime Minister Rabin said that her trip is a disgrace for Labor.

Bahrain

Turkey's Demirel Arrives in Manama on Visit

JN2801180193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1455 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Manama, 28 Jan (WAKH)—Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel arrived in Manama from Doha this evening on a two-day visit to Bahrain within a tour of a number of countries in the region. He was received by His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, prime minister of Bahrain; ministers; and senior officials.

Demirel is expected to hold talks with the Bahraini prime minister on bilateral relations and ways to promote them in the political, economic, and trade fields. The talks will also deal with the current regional, Arab, and international developments and issues that concern the Islamic world.

Kuwait

State Signs Convention Banning Chemical Weapons

LD2801135293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpt] United Nations, 28 Jan (KUNA)—Kuwait yesterday joined the other states by signing the convention banning chemical weapons, which was signed in Paris in mid-January by more than 130 states. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Comments on Bosnia, Iraq

TA2401202793 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 24 Jan 93

[Interview with Kuwaiti Information Minister Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by Cem Gultekin in Kuwait in English with superimposed Turkish translation; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Sabah] We are very happy about your prime minister's forthcoming visit. We cannot forget Turkey's support. It extended us support in our difficult period. Your prime minister's visit to Kuwait is a manifestation of our good relations.

[Gultekin] What are your views regarding the tragedy in Bosnia-Hercegovina. How do you think this problem can be solved?

[Al-Sabah] We are closely following the situation in Bosnia. Our government is in cooperation with the United States and the European community which are trying to help solve the problem. The problem is quite complicated. We hope that the results of the Geneva talks will be positive.

[Gultekin] A small region which was captured previously by Iraq was returned to Kuwait. Do you think this will create a problem for Kuwait in the future?

[Al-Sabah] We are very optimistic on the issue. Everything, however, depends on the stand of Saddam Husayn. It is important what will happen to Iraq. Will Saddam remain in power or will there be a government change in Iraq, a government with goodwill? We do not know the answers to these questions. As soon as security is achieved we will take all the measures necessary not to be faced with a disaster in the future.

Oman

UK Prime Minister Holds Talks, Departs 28 Jan

JN2801170993 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, may God preserve him, received in the Sultani Pavilion today British Prime Minister John Major and the accompanying delegation. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation between the two friendly countries. They also agreed, in principle, that the government of his majesty the sultan will purchase British Challenger tanks and technicians will later meet to discuss the details.

During the meeting with the British prime minister, his majesty the sultan reviewed the recent regional and world developments as well as bilateral cooperation to consolidate world peace and stability. The meeting was attended by His Excellency Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, and his excellency the British ambassador to the Sultanate.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of the British prime minister and the accompanying delegation in the Sultani Pavilion today.

British Prime Minister John Major left the country this afternoon following a brief visit to the Sultanate during which he had the honor of meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and holding official talks with him. The two exchanged views on relations between the two friendly countries, issues of mutual interest, and the current Arab and international developments. The British prime minister was seen off by His Excellency Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, and his excellency the British ambassador to the Sultanate.

Before departing the country, British Prime Minister John Major held a press conference during which he spoke about a number of issues as well as the subjects he discussed with his majesty the sultan.

Qatar

Turkish Prime Minister Begins Talks in Doha

TA2801180293 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Report by Bulent Gullapoglu from Doha]

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel was ceremoniously received in Doha by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and defense minister. Demirel left the airport for the amir's office, where he was received by Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani. Demirel and the amir discussed various regional and international issues, especially the Gulf and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Later, the official talks began between the two countries. The Turkish delegation included Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin, State Minister Cavit Caglar, Agriculture and Village Affairs Minister Necmettin Cevheri, and other technical officials. The Qatari side consisted of the ministers' counterparts and other officials.

The talks focused on the situation in the Gulf, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Azerbaijan, Karabakh, and the Palestinian problem. With regard to bilateral relations, the delegations discussed in particular the transportation of Qatari natural gas to Turkey either via pipeline or by sea. The sides also discussed ways to increase bilateral trade.

The Qatari amir then hosted a dinner in Demirel's honor.

Comments on Terrorism in Istanbul

TA2801164893 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel has declared that there are those who wish to disrupt the tranquillity of the country despite the national unity displayed during journalist-writer Ugur Mumcu's funeral. He said: The state knows the perpetrators of the incidents. Let no one worry, they will all be seized soon.

Demirel held a news conference in Qatar, where he is currently conducting an official visit, and commented on Mumcu's assassination and the attack against Jak Kamhi in Istanbul.

[Begin Demirel recording] Ugur Mumcu has been laid down for his eternal rest. An unprecentedly large crowd attended his funeral. This ceremony was conducted in total peace and dignity. This ceremony is also extremely important in that it shows our country's strength and national unity. As it happens, the deputy amir of Saudi Arabia, who saw us off at the airport in Jeddah, watched the ceremony on television and told us that this grand ceremony demonstrates a nation's unity and solidarity. This was his observation.

Our nation always displays commendable dignity and unity in the face of major incidents. This was such an example.

Another incident occurred in Istanbul this morning. Jak Kamhi's car was attacked with gunfire and a LAW [light antitank weapon]. There were no casualties. I spoke to the Istanbul governor and to Kamhi and wished him well.

The state knows the perpetrators of these incidents. They are all practically in the hands of the state. Therefore, no one should worry that we are faced with a new wave of these incidents. We hope that they will also be captured in the near future. In other words, there are no unknowns. We are talking about a known organization and persons, who have not yet been caught by the state. [end recording]

Saudi Arabia

British Prime Minister on Visit to Riyadh

King Gives Banquet

LD2801205793 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, gave at the royal diwan [cabinet] at the al-Yamamah Palace this evening a dinner banquet in honor of His Excellency Mr John Major, the prime minister of Britain. [passage omitted]

His excellency the British prime minister arrived earlier today in Riyadh for a private visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Clinches Deal To Sell Aircraft

LD2801233793 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 2311 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By Paul Bromley, PRESS ASSOCIATION lobby correspondent, in Riyadh]

[Text] John Major tonight clinched a multi-billion pound deal to sell 48 Tornado aircraft to the Saudi Arabian government.

The contract, which was agreed by the prime minister during talks with King Fahd will safeguard 19,000 jobs at British Aerospace sites in the north west of England.

Government officials in Riyadh tonight announced the deal, which is part of the 1985 Al-Yamamah programme between Britain and Saudi Arabia.

A statement issued to journalists accompanying the prime minister said: "The government of Saudi Arabia, as part of its plans to strengthen its defence capability, has reached agreement with the UK government to purchase a further 48 Tornado IDS aircraft under the Al-Yamamah defence co-operation agreements."

The statement added that Britain warmly welcomed the decision.

Government officials did not dispute suggestions that the deal was worth about 5 billion pounds sterling.

The British Aerospace jobs which will be safeguarded under the agreement are at their sites at Warton, Chorley, Samlesbury in Lancs, and Lostock in Greater Manchester. The deal is thought to be second biggest arms deal for Britain after the original 1985 Al-Yamamah programme. The announcement came after three hours of talks at dinner between the prime minister and the Saudi king. Also in attendance was Defence Minister Jonathan Aitken.

Earlier, Mr. Major announced the sale of 36 Vickers Challenger II tanks and four armoured repair and recovery vehicles to Oman. The 150 million pounds sterling deal will protect 1,800 jobs at Vickers sites in Newcastle and Leeds.

Mr. Major was tonight flying back to Britain at the end of his six-day trip to India and the Gulf aimed at boosting British exports as a way of protecting jobs at home.

Charles Miller, PRESS ASSOCIATION defence correspondent, writes: The agreement, worth around 3 billion pounds sterling according to more conservative estimates, comes as a massive boost for British Aerospace which has been forced to lay off thousands of workers because of the worldwide cut in defence spending.

The order will save the Tornado production line at Warton, near Preston, which ran out of work last month.

The Saudi Airforce already flies 48 of the Tornados bought under the first 1985 phase of the Al-Yamamah project.

The Saudi Tornados are virtually identical to the RAF's GR1 fighter bombers and played a key role in the Gulf war. The two-man swing wing strike aircraft are designed to carry a wide-range of weapons such as 1,000lb bombs and air-defence missiles. One of the Tornado's greatest strengths is its ability to fly low towards a target at high speed at heights below 50ft to avoid being detected by enemy radar.

The new order comes a day after BAE announced it was joining US aircraft giants Boeing and three European firms to look at the feasibility of building a new generation of superjumbos, which would go into production around the year 2000.

They would seat up to 800 passengers, twice the capacity of the Boeing 747 jumbo jet, the world's biggest passenger aircraft.

Meets With King Fahd

LD2801234193 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpt] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, held a meeting tonight at the royal diwan [cabinet] in the Al-Yamamah Palace with His Excellency Mr. John Major, the prime minister of Britain. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Government Tightens Trade Boycott of Israel

NC2801132293 Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan 28 (AFP)—The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has tightened its boycott of Israel by ordering strict compliance by its banks and companies of an Arab League ban on trade, officials said on Thursday.

The move followed a recent request by the United States to Gulf countries to lift the long-standing boycott that has cost Israel nearly 50 billion dollars since the ban was fully enforced in the early 1960s.

A circular sent Wednesday by the Arab boycott office at the UAE economy ministry to local banks and companies asked them to adhere to boycott rules on certificates of origin and other documents to prove the product did not originate from Israel or the exporter is not linked to the Jewish nation.

Arab importers should ask foreign exporters to supply with their goods certificates of origin. These should be duly authenticated by chambers of commerce in the exporting countries, the circular said.

It was not clear if the order was prompted by any violations of the boycott. But it followed a U.S. request to end the ban on the grounds it was hindering Washington's trade with the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council.

"The enforcement of the boycott deprives the GCC countries of the products and services of a wider range of U.S. companies," said an official U.S. White Paper distributed to the six GCC members recently.

It was the latest in a series of Western calls on the Arab League to lift the ban.

The boycott has hurt the Israel economy and forced many Western firms to stop dealing with the Jewish state.

Turkish President's Comments on Regime Criticized

JN2801202793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Commenting on Turkish President Turgut Ozal's interview with CNN in Washington today—in which he called for changing the regime in Iraq—the INA political editor said:

Ozal is still speaking in the voice of his former master, criminal George Bush, at a time when most of America's allies in the aggression against Iraq are reconsidering their calculations and stands.

The editor added: This is how the small rulers who were brought up by the CIA act. They do not have a national sense of their countries' true interests. They also keep panting after their masters to please them.

The INA political editor concluded: We are sure that the Turkish people denounce Ozal's statements, especially since they have been, and still are, supporting Iraq.

Saddam Receives Message From Russian Party Head

JN2801172293 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, Jan 28, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a message from Chairman of the Russian Democratic Liberal Party Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, expressing absolute solidarity with the people of Iraq in facing up to the U.S.-led aggression.

Deputy Chairman of the Russian Party Ahmed Khalitov [name as received] handed this message to Deputy Premier in charge of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party Foreign Relations Bureau Tariq 'Aziz in a meeting held in Baghdad today.

Mr 'Aziz shed light on friendship and cooperation relations between the two parties and the traditional ties between the Iraqi and Russian peoples and the mutual interests.

For his part, Mr Khalitov voiced total solidarity of the Russian people with Iraq in countering the aggression and called for lifting the unjustifiable comprehensive blockade imposed on Iraq.

Promised Russian Veto on New Offensive Praised

PM2701145093 Paris LE FIGARO in French 26 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Iraqi Parliament Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih by Remi Favret in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] [Favret] Since the announcement of a cease-fire by Iraq and Bill Clinton's arrival in the White House there have already been three air incidents over Iraq. Are you worried?

[Salih] We do not understand the reasons for these incidents. Whatever they are, it is too soon after Bill Clinton's arrival to be able to draw conclusions. There are still people in his administration who belong to the Bush era. It is they who are trying to sabotage the chances of dialogue. We will continue to be very firm but reasonable and well-intentioned in the current period. We hope that President Clinton fully understands our position. Everybody in Iraq wants peace.

[Favret] Do you really think that Bill Clinton will be more conciliatory than George Bush?

[Salih] He is a young man with an open mind. He has said that he would prefer to find solutions through dialogue.

[Favret] What dialogue? Are you trying to renegotiate the conditions which you accepted at the end of the Gulf War?

[Salih] We want dialogue on three points: 1—The lifting of the blockade on Iraq which has not been justified since we left Kuwait. 2—An end to the interference in Iraq's internal affairs and the attacks on our sovereignty. 3—The resumption of economic cooperation with all countries in the world, especially, we hope, the United States.

[Favret] The cease-fire resolutions have forced you to recognize Kuwait's borders. But, in Baghdad, the official line is once again that Kuwait is part of Iraq....

[Salih] None of the top Iraqi officials has said that Kuwait is part of Iraq. These are personal opinions reported in the Iraqi press. This is also the view of a large part of our people.

[Favret] Are you prepared, if the embargo was lifted, to fulfill your obligations and pay war reparations?

[Salih] And who will pay for the damage inflicted on us? I would like to know the answer to that question. There is no obstacle to us solving all these problems together.

[Favret] So Iraq does not recognize its responsibilities in the war?

[Salih] Ask the foreign minister.

[Favret] It took three allied raids to make you accept the overflight of your territory by UN planes. What is now your precise position on the conditions laid down by the United Nations?

[Salih] We do not want to disrupt the work of the UN missions in any way. They come here, go where they wish, destroy the factories or equipment they wish. But in view of the fact that Iraq has accepted all these resolutions, why is the blockade continuing? What we do not accept are the flights of American, French, and British military planes over our territory. That has nothing to do with the UN resolutions. It must stop.

[Favret] So you will not respect the no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq?

[Salih] We regard them as interference and as a violation of our sovereignty. Nothing in the resolutions or in international law justifies them. The overflight of our territory by military planes is a hostile action.

[Favret] Will you give a military response or will you continue to wait for a gesture from the new U.S. President? If so, for how long?

[Salih] We have not set any time limit in days or weeks for the new U.S. Administration to understand our position. The important thing is that we want to give peace a chance.

[Favret] Aleksandr Rutskoy has announced that Russia would use its right of veto if the Western countries sought approval in the Security Council for a new offensive against Iraq....

[Salih] The Russians ought to have adopted this position a long time ago, before the aggression to which we were subjected by the United States, France, and Britain. However, we are very happy with the Russian statement.

[Favret] Will it allow you to increase the demands you are making on the Western countries?

[Salih] We are already very firm with regard to them. We have right and justice on our side.

[Favret] For two years Iran has developed its power and has worried the Gulf states who fought you. Is this a strategic change of which you intend to take advantage?

[Salih] Iran still has ambitions in the Persian Gulf, all the more so now that it thinks that Iraq is weak. Not only will Iran occupy other islands in the Persian Gulf, but it will interfere in the internal affairs of the Gulf countries. Sooner or later, the Gulf states will need Iraq. We alone are capable of defending them.

Paper Hails Russian Position

JN2801110293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said the new Russian position calling for opening a calm political dialogue with Iraq to resolve all standing issues is a "praiseworthy position."

In an article published today, AL-QADISIYAH, the Defense Ministry's mouthpiece, says: This position confirms the Russian Government's acknowledgement, and conviction, that the aggression launched by the United States and its allies against Iraq was illegitimate.

It adds: The remnants of the U.S. policy of terror followed by war criminal Bush have begun to collapse. The wagers of that policy began to fail one after the other after the exposure of its double standards and personal grudges, which were behind fabricating the aggression once again.

The paper asserts that this "Russian awakening" represented by the new position, which was also preceded by other stands made by senior officials in the coalition states themselves, who clearly criticized the hostile attitudes of their own governments and the UN Security Council's subservience, constitute a pressure factor and will greatly influence the international politics and the world public opinion.

The paper asserts: The new Russian stand is one of the "gains" made by the Iraqi peace initiative of 19 January.

The paper says: These stands signal the beginning of a new phase in international politics characterized by realism and logic and will help the region avert wars. They also oppose, to a large extent, the reckless policy pursued by criminal Bush during his dark era.

The paper adds: Should they continue, these proposals to start a political dialogue on the basis of the Iraqi initiative suggest they can provide a real starting point to resolve all standing issues, not only with Iraq but among all regional states and the world.

The paper recalls the Arab stands and says the statements of denunciation, condemnation, and regret have not changed a thing in the reality of aggression; nor did they make Iraq feel that the Arab Governments have shown the support they should have. The paper says this is the "bitter truth" about these stands.

The paper adds that the required Arab position is solidarity with Iraq at this phase to break and lift the blockade on the Arab level. This task, the paper says, should be a priority for the Arabs.

Rebel Radio Reports Attack on Party Office

NC2801180193 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] An Islamic resistance group carried out a jihad operation last week against the ruling [Ba'th] Party office in al-Salam subdistrict in al-'Amarah [Maysan] Governorate. According to our sources in the south, the group fired 12 RPG-7's at the office, demolishing the building and killing or wounding its occupants. A large-caliber machine gun that had been deployed on top of the building was also destroyed.

Following the attack, the regime's henchmen and mercenaries were in a state of panic and fled the area. They did not return until after the regime sent military reinforcements to the area, including armored vehicles and large numbers of troops.

Meanwhile, a force belonging to the tyrant's regime comprising the 1st Commando Brigade of the 3d Army Corps attacked al-Basrah Governorate's Qarmat 'Ali area last week. Our sources said the regime's forces used

all types of weapons, including artillery and armor, in the attack. They demolished several houses and killed or wounded dozens of innocent citizens. They also arrested more than 20 civilians on the pretext that they were collaborating with the Iraqi opposition.

The regime's forces also imposed a curfew on the area and robbed citizens of money and property.

Kuwaitis Reportedly Transferred to Secret Jails

NC2801161493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The tyrant Saddam's regime issued instructions in the past few days to all state military and civilian departments, including police stations, intelligence service branches, and Army recruitment offices to conceal all files containing the names of Iraqi and non-Iraqi citizens who were taken into custody during and after Kuwait's invasion.

Our sources cite people close to the regime that these instructions noted the possibility that these centers and departments might be searched by UN committees.

Meanwhile, informed sources have reported that a number of Kuwaiti detainees have been transferred from jails in Baghdad to secret detention centers operated by the intelligence service in the city's suburbs and the country's central governorates. The sources added that these detainees were split into small groups and transported in closed ambulances to the secret jails whose locations are known only to the tyrant and his very close associates.

Arab League Informed of Airspace 'Violations'

JN2901102393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jan (INA)—Iraq has informed the Arab League that U.S., British, and French aircraft have continued to violate its airspace and threaten Iraq's sovereignty, security, and national unity.

In a letter sent yesterday to Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League said that on Tuesday, 26 January, U.S., British, and French aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace with 70 hostile sorties, flying from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

In his letter, Iraq's envoy enclosed a table detailing these violations. He also said the Iraqi Government wishes to inform the secretary general and all Arab states of these regrettable facts. He asked that the letter be distributed to the member states.

Minister Threatens Lawsuit Over Turkish Dam

JN2901121893 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—Agriculture and Irrigation Minister 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh has asserted that Turkey's agreement with a number of European firms to build the Bercik dam and a hydroelectric power station on the Euphrates near the border with Syria constitutes a violation of international law and an infringement on Iraq's right to share the waters of this river.

In a statement to INA, the minister said the building of this dam, at an estimated cost of $1.4 billion, will affect Iraq's share of water, reduce the water quality and increase its salinity, and thus affect arable land in the Euphrates basin within Iraq's boundaries.

The minister said work on this dam—financed by a consortium of nine companies from Germany, Belgium, Austria and France, as well as Turkey—will continue for 15 years, after which the ownership of the dam will transfer to Turkey. The 59.5-meter-high dam will have a storage capacity of 1.25 billion cubic meters of water. It will irrigate 372,000 donums of arable land in Turkey and generate 660 megawatts of electricity.

He explained that in view of the fact that they originate outside the country, Iraqi waters are a target of Western schemes and attempts to block the flow of water by building their own projects and dams. He pointed out that since 1960, Turkey has blocked the flow of water by building three dams: The Kiban, Qirtabah, and Ataturk.

'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud al-Sabbagh said the operation of this dam will significantly reduce the flow of the Euphrates in a manner that contravenes international norms and laws, particularly Article 5 of Protocol 1 on the division of waters from the Euphrates and Tigris which is an attached to the 1946 Friendship and Good Neighborliness Treaty between Iraq and Turkey. He also stressed that there is a law that prohibits technical or financial assistance to any water project without the approval of the parties concerned, which must also specify their share of common water resources.

He noted the fact that the Turkish side has been procrastinating over the issue of sharing the Euphrates waters in accordance with the said protocol.

He said Turkey does not recognize that there is arable land or a civilization in Iraq, and is taking advantage of the current situation in the region to build the dam in coordination with a consortium of European companies which seek long-term control of the Euphrates. This control, he said, will reduce the amount of agricultural land in Iraq in the future.

He asserted that Iraq is serious about raising this issue on both the political and technical levels to affirm its right to water. Iraq, he said, will also sue the companies

financing the project for not consulting with the states sharing the Euphrates basin.

Concluding his statement, the minister of agriculture and irrigation urged workers in the agricultural field to exert all efforts to implement irrigation projects to foil all colonialist attempts aimed at infringing on Iraq and its sacred soil.

TV Transmission of Friday Prayers Begins

JN2901120493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—As of today, Iraqi television will transmit live the Friday prayers and religious celebrations from mosques and holy shrines so that citizens in Iraq and neighboring Arab and Islamic states can participate in these celebrations.

The first channel of Iraqi television has started to transmit the Friday prayers and sermon from Prophet Yunus Mosque in Ninawa Governorate, which was inaugurated today.

Rihab 'Abd-al-Qadir, chairman of the engineering committee in the Culture and Information Ministry, told INA that having completed the first phase of the building and reconstruction of radio and television stations, as well as the reconstruction of Telecommunication Ministry microwave lines and stations, the Culture and Information Ministry will transmit live the Friday prayers and sermons in the governorates.

'Abd-al-Qadir pointed out that over the next two months, the ministry's second phase will be completed, allowing live transmission of all religious, public, and mass celebrations at holy places in all governorates.

Talks Between Airways, French Airbus Planned

JN2901101493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jan (INA)—Talks between Iraqi Airways and the French Airbus company, which specializes in manufacturing civilian planes, will begin early next month to discuss the implementation of a contract signed between the two companies to purchase five Airbus-300 and Airbus-300A planes.

Iraqi Airways Director Nur-al-Din Safi Hammadi told INA that a delegation from the French Airbus company will arrive in Baghdad within the next few days to discuss the $500-million contract signed between the two companies in 1990. Iraq was due to receive the first Airbus plane last year and up to three planes this year.

The director of Iraqi Airways told INA that Iraq is committed to implementing the contract which aims at strengthening and modernizing the company's fleet to meet the developmental resurgence Iraq is witnessing in all fields.

He added that the new planes will enter service after the lifting of the unjust air embargo imposed on Iraq and will absorb the increase in air transportation and develop the fleet of Iraqi civilian passenger planes. He pointed out that as part of its future plans, the company is determined to strengthen and improve its fleet, despite the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq for over two years now.

An INA correspondent has reported that these planes are used for short and medium flights, and are distinguished by their high safety standards and speed. Each plane, he said, can carry between 200 and 230 passengers.

Arab Investors Urged To Join Agricultural Plans

JN2801203793 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 25 Jan 93 pp 1, 5

[Report by Yasir al-Mutawalli]

[Text] To encourage Arab investment, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has declared its readiness to sign contracts with Arab citizens willing to invest in agriculture in Iraq. Investments should be in Iraqi dinars brought from abroad.

The Central Bank of Iraq has made it conditional that the capitals of agreed on projects be in Iraqi dinars brought from abroad and should cover their expenses.

The instructions also provide that investors bring the requirements of production, equipment, and machines from abroad and without foreign transfer.

According to these instructions, investors will be entitled to export no more than 20 percent of the their projects' annual production. They will be allowed to use the revenues of their exports to cover the expenses of the projects' imports. They will also be allowed to transfer their full annual profits, provided that transferred profits not be in excess of 20 percent of the value of the machines and equipment brought into the country.

'Excerpts' of High Court Ruling on Deportees

TA2801150693 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 28 Jan 93

["Unofficial translation" of "excerpts" of High Court of Justice ruling; communicated by the Foreign Ministry—all quotation marks as received]

[Text] 1. This morning (Thursday), 28.1.92, the High Court of Justice decision regarding the petitions on the temporary removal of the Hamas activists was issued.

2. The High Court of Justice decision is substantiated and detailed, and extends over 32 pages. The following is the summation clause: "17. In summation, we have unanimously reached the following conclusions:

A: Concerning the individual expulsion orders, we determine that the failure to satisfy the right to a prior hearing does not affect their validity. We instruct that the right to a hearing now be given, as detailed above.

B: The order regarding the temporary expulsion (emergency order) is invalid due to the reason brought forth in sections 12 (d) and 13, above. This conclusion does not affect the validity of the individual expulsion orders.

C: As stated, charges against the validity of the individual expulsion orders which were issued pursuant to regulation 112 of the Defense (Emergency) Regulations 1945, should be raised before the advisory commission.

In accordance with the above, we dismiss the petitions and cancel the order nisi."

3. Also of note are sections 14 and 15 of the High Court of Justice ruling, which mention the procedures by which the appeals can be heard: "14. The petitioners charged that the individual expulsion orders are invalid owing to defects in the process, beyond the negation of the right to petition. The respondents disputed this.

We believe that, in the case before us, the place of the charges such as these is before the advisory commission to which the deportee is permitted to direct his appeal. As long as the advisory commission has not decided otherwise, each individual order remains valid.

15. The respondents must now make practical arrangements for the realization of the right to appear before an advisory commission operating in accordance with regulation 122 (8) of the above regulations vis-a-vis all who wish to do so. Accordingly, if a written appeal is received from a deportee—via the International Red Cross or any other means—by which the commission is requested to hear his appeal, it is proper that the petitioner be permitted to appear personally before the commission in order that the commission may take note of his verbal explanations, and that it may examine the matter and the justice of the expulsion order executed in his case. Prior to the appearance before the commission, he should also be allowed a personal meeting with an attorney who wishes to represent the deportee before the commission.

The commission can conduct its hearings anywhere that the IDF can ensure that the hearings are held properly.

To implement all the above, the respondents must make practical arrangements, the details of which should be decided upon by the authorities responsible for them. The beginning of the arrangements has been described in the State deposition submitted to us on 25.1.92, but these must be supplemented in accordance with the spirit of our words herein.

Furthermore, we have taken note of the statement of the Legal Advisor to the Government on 25.1.93, according to which there will be held—within a reasonable amount of time and at the initiative of the respondents—a further analysis of the security information relating to the matter of each deportee who does not submit an appeal."

Rabin Briefs Diplomats Following Ruling

TA2901100493 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 29 Jan 93 pp 1, 10

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and New York correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Last night, in a rare move, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin summoned all 85 foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires in Israel to his office at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv to present Israel's position in the wake of the ruling of the High Court of Justice. Rabin asked them to relay to their governments that the Israeli Government is determined to abide by the court ruling.

At the end of the prime minister's presentation, dozens of diplomats gave him a standing ovation.

Rabin elaborated on his credo in the wake of the court ruling on the question of the deportees. "I made a huge effort to win the approval of the High Court of Justice," he said. Had the court rejected the state's position, "the peace process would have been dealt a severe blow," the prime minister stated. He spoke at length against the comparison the world is drawing between Israel on one hand and Iraq and Libya on the other with regard to compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

Replying to questions, Rabin stated that already this morning Israeli officers would be waiting at the Zummarayya crossing for the representatives of the deportees to submit their petitions to the appeals committees, although he estimated that the deportees would abstain from exercising the right given them by the High Court of Justice. Therefore, he said, the committees will unilaterally review the case of each deportee to either shorten his deportation or return him home.

At the end of the meeting, the diplomats thanked Rabin for the opportunity given them to get a firsthand report about the measures he intends to take. [passage omitted]

It is estimated that several dozen deportees may be allowed to return when the Shin Bet finishes reviewing the cases. In some cases, the deportation will be commuted to several months of administrative detention.

The prime minister conferred separately with U.S. Ambassador William Harrop and promised him that the defense establishment will act speedily to enable the deportees to exercise their right of appeal and, to the extent possible, return to the territories. The meeting with Harrop was part of the feverish contacts currently under way between Jerusalem and Washington. [passage omitted]

Sources Detail Location of Preliminary Hearings

TA2801110793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The government is satisfied with the High Court of Justice ruling. Government officials are still analyzing the ruling and will attempt to determine where the deportees will be able to attend the preliminary hearings. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz brings additional details:

The cardinal question facing the prime minister is: Where will the deportees' preliminary hearings be conducted? The satisfaction felt in the circles close to the prime minister was evident in their sarcastic question: Where are the ministers who participated in the television survey now and will they now—still anonymously—recommend changing the ruling?

Regarding the issue of the preliminary hearings, senior political sources assess that they can be held in one of two places: either inside the security zone in the north or at a location along the international border between Rosh Haniqra and Metulla. There is a precedent for such a situation in which several people were deported and later returned for a hearing. This happened in May 1980, when Fahd al-Qawasimi, Muhammad Hasan Milhim, and Shaykh al-Tamimi were deported by Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer, who was commander of Judaea and Samaria at the time. The High Court of Justice then ordered that they be given the right of a preliminary hearing. Two of the three took advantage of this right, and the hearing took place at Allenby Bridge itself. The committee that was appointed to hear the appeals of the two sat at Allenby Bridge, and the two appellants came from Jordan to the bridge, where the hearings took place.

Based on this precedent and on what the senior political sources told us, the deportees' preliminary hearings will be held either in the security zone or along the international border between Israel and Lebanon. We should also recall that in his answer to the High Court last Monday, the attorney general said Israel will build an appropriate installation for holding the preliminary hearings at Zummarayya.

It seems, however, that the main effort now returns to the Security Council arena, where Israel will have to cope with the demand to impose sanctions on it in the wake of Butrus-Ghali's harsh report and in the wake of the High Court's decision stating that each of the 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members was deported legally.

Officials Comment on Court Ruling on Deportees

Rabin on U.S. Support

TA2901055393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] In Jerusalem last night, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said he believed the United States would not lend a hand to any resolution at the United Nations that might harm Israel. In a speech to the conference of Bonds leaders, the premier made this call to the American people and the new U.S. Administration:

[Begin Rabin recording] We would like to say a few words to the people of America, to the new administration, and to the new President:

For years—no doubt since the Six-Day War in 1967, but even before that—the United States, its administrations, its presidents, understood that if they want to prevent wars, if they want to encourage the possibility to achieve peace is to stand firm by Israel's side and not to allow any resolution in the United Nations that might damage or will put sanctions against Israel.

I believe that this tradition of so many administrations, so many presidents of the United States, will be continued. No president of the United States will give a hand to any resolution in the UN that will be against Israel by practical terms and will do as all the presidents in the past to prevent any resolution that will try to harm Israel. [end recording]

Attorney General Comments

TA2801085393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0655 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Attorney General Yosef Harish by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] What is your initial reaction to the High Court of Justice ruling?

[Harish] My initial reaction is that it is a wide-ranging, thorough, and profound ruling, and we have to study it before responding to its contents.

[Dan] But you know that our listeners and the entire world are very interested. Perhaps you can explain in

general terms, in a way each of us can understand, the practical meaning of this ruling?

[Harish] The initial significance—and I stress: It is only initial—is that the individual expulsion orders—in fact the overall expulsion move, which is made up of many expulsion orders against individuals—remain in force. The right of appeal after the fact is sufficient for the individual expulsion orders to be considered legal. The court asked or ordered or instructed—I do not know the precise wording it used, because I have not had time to read all of it—that any of the deportees who want to appear personally before the committee be permitted to do so.

[Dan] Mr. Harish, will you be able to advise the government on how those appeals will be implemented and where it will be done?

[Harish] The problem is less a legal one than a practical and logistic one. I assume that full arrangements will be made to implement the court ruling in toto.

[Friedman] Based on precedents, should this take place inside the State of Israel?

[Harish] I do not know; that is the tough logistic problem.

[Dan] Only logistic?

[Harish] Certainly. There is no legal problem, because legal guidance has been handed down.

[Friedman] Mr. Harish, it was also ruled that the general expulsion order is invalidated. Was a mistake made there?

[Harish] I do not think so, but I have still not read the argumentation in reference to the normative general orders; therefore, I cannot say....

[Dan, interrupting] The court ruled that it is illegal.

[Harish] I hear that from you. In fact, I also heard something about that in the courtroom in reference to one of the clauses, but the argumentation used is important. I believe that it says that these orders were unnecessary because the expulsion was carried out according to Regulation 112 and not according to special normative orders; therefore, these orders are unnecessary. They are invalid to the extent that they were meant to alter or detract from the right to present the defendant's case, and that was not the aim. That is what was said in the ruling, but because there was no intention from the outset to infringe on the right to present a case—we intended to provide the right of appeal after the fact—I believe that the orders do not really contravene the law. I must repeat, however, that all this is mere assumption because I have not read the argumentation.

[Harish] You are the one who advised the government and represented it in court. When you heard today's ruling, did you feel relief or, perhaps, the opposite?

[Harish] Of course I feel relief; why should I feel different? The government considered the expulsion a vital and imperative move at the time it was ordered, and that situation still exists; therefore, the expulsion remains valid. Why should I not feel relief?

[Dan] What about the way it was done? If it were possible, would you have changed something?

[Harish] I do not think so; I do not think so.

Rabin Comments on Ruling

TA2801140593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1235 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to the national convention of Israel's Hoteliers Association, at the Hilton Hotel in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] President of Israel's Hoteliers Association, the tourism minister, directors general of the Prime Minister's Office and the Tourism Ministry, Hapo'alim Bank executives, and all those of you working in the hotel and tourism business:

It is only natural that I should start my address by referring to what happened today. Many days ago I said that the government would abide by the ruling of the High Court of Justice. Today I am happy to say that the ruling will be fulfilled.

I feel good. I am not a legal expert, but the very fact that the Supreme Court, in its capacity as the High Court of Justice, ruled that the deportees should remain where they are, that every person in a democratic regime—and we are a democratic regime—has the right to plead his case, even post factum, fulfills the intention the government had in mind when it decided on the deportations.

I will not go into details. As far as I am concerned, the fact that they are there and that they will be given the right to plead their case in accordance with the ruling of the High Court of Justice enables the government to execute its policy: to conduct peace negotiations, and at the same time, to fight terror—particularly the terror aimed at ending the peace negotiations—in order to safeguard Israel's security and to ensure maximum personal safety for Israel's citizens. In this respect, the High Court of Justice ruling enables the government to execute its policy in keeping with the conditions and restrictions it set forth.

Ahead of us still lies a struggle in the international arena—in the UN, one of the least amenable arenas to Israel—for our policy and the decisions stemming from it. We have taken it upon ourselves, with pain and occasionally gritting our teeth, to pursue the peace negotiations, even as acts of terror and violence continue, such as the murder of Israelis because they are Israelis and the murder of Palestinians suspected of wanting the peace negotiations to go on. We said that we would pursue the peace negotiations regardless of terror and that we would fight terror regardless of the continuing

peace negotiations. We did not make the continuation of the peace negotiations conditional on the absence of terror, and it is inconceivable that the other side should make the continuation of the peace negotiations conditional on Israel's legal actions against terror. It is inconceivable that an Israeli government should agree to ignore terror and riots, particularly those aimed at putting an end to the peace negotiations.

I very much hope that the international community will seriously study the carefully argued ruling of the Supreme Court in its capacity as the High Court of Justice. It will find there precedents set in the United States and Britain to the effect that in times of emergency, for security or other reasons, those countries decided to deport people without first hearing their arguments and allowed them to plead their case post factum. The arguments in the ruling of the Supreme Court cite these precedents.

I stated last night on the television program "Moqed," and I will repeat it now: I find it hard to believe that a U.S. Administration and a U.S. President can conceive of imposing sanctions on Israel. I find it hard to believe that a U.S. Administration and a U.S. President would not fight a move to impose sanctions on Israel. This has been the policy of all U.S. Presidents and all U.S. Administrations in the last 35 years or maybe more; I am being cautious because I do not exactly recall what happened in 1956, but definitely in the last 35 years. That is why I feel, with a high degree of certainty, that U.S. policy will be the same. I definitely expect that.

Furthermore, the report of the UN secretary general, which I termed a reward to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], denotes a double standard. What sort of standard is to compare the removal of Hamas murderers, the assassins of peace—none of whom have died, have been hurt or killed—to what Iraq did when it invaded, occupied, and annexed Kuwait and the ensuing war? How can it be compared to Libya, which gave asylum to terrorists whose extradition was sought by France and the United States? These terrorists caused the explosion of a French plane which resulted in the deaths of 170 innocent passengers. Two other terrorists, whose extradition was sought by the United States, planted a bomb aboard a Pan Am plane and the ensuing explosion resulted in the deaths of 270 innocent passengers. How can it be compared to the events in Yugoslavia, which have resulted in the deaths of 40,000 to 80,000 people, and the horror that is going on there? Are these equal standards? Is there any room for comparison?

After all, the removal of the leaders, inciters, and organizers of Hamas is only for one-and-a-half to two years. The so-called mistaken deportations were caused by misinterpretation of my orders and those of the chief of staff not to deport men currently undergoing legal proceedings and definitely not to deport men who had been sentenced. Six of the latter were allowed to return, but two of them chose not to. One had been sentenced to almost 20 years in prison. He does not deserve to be there; he should be in jail. That is why he and his friend chose not to return at all.

I wonder about those Israelis who say that deportation is worse than death. Ask the Toledano, Biton, and Azulay families, whose dear ones were so ruthlessly murdered by Hamas, what they would have chosen if they had been given the choice of being deported—not for two, but for five years—or being murdered and buried.

That is why we must go ahead with the peace negotiations, with a clear conscience and out of a sense of absolute justice and the wish to attain peace. However, we must not do that by exposing Israel's citizens, Army soldiers, border policemen, and security forces personnel to attacks and murder. We must take all the measures we are permitted by law to fight terror. The more successful we are in fighting the murderers of Israelis and Palestinians and the assassins of peace, the more we will succeed in advancing toward peace.

I look ahead with faith and hope that the peace negotiations will continue. What is more, peace is not an act of charity. Peace is in the interest of the Arabs, as it is in ours. Had this not been the case, there would be no peace negotiations. I believe that this interest persists, more so in the Arab countries—Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon—than among the split and divided leadership of the Palestinians. Therefore, I believe that the peace negotiations will continue. I also believe peace has a chance of materializing, perhaps later than I had hoped, but it will materialize.

Now, allow me to move on to other issues. This government set out a two-track policy: 1) to promote peace negotiations while safeguarding Israel's security and ensuring maximum personal safety to its citizens; 2) strengthening the economy and advancing Israeli society. The government adopted its own order of national priorities. I have said this from time to time, and I will repeat it now: Unfortunately, the State of Israel, with the toil of its national labor and the help of the Jewish, cannot yet provide the Israeli people the economic security.

Peres on UN Sanctions

TA2801182093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres does not believe the UN Security Council will impose sanctions on Israel due to the deportees affair. Mr. Peres, who is currently in Switzerland, said that Israel had deported the 415 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men to make progress on the road to peace. If sanctions are imposed, they might have a counterproductive effect which nobody wants; they might put an end to the peace process, Peres said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Interviewed

TA2901083193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Uri Paz and Gilat Levi—live]

[Excerpt] [Levi] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Levi] Israel's public relations machine has been working overtime in preparation for the debate on the Security Council chairman's report, which will probably take place on 2 February. Has yesterday's High Court of Justice ruling made things easier or harder for those in charge of Israel's public relations?

[Beilin] There are two levels here. The first level involves the public relations aspect, whereas the second and perhaps more important one is the political level at the United Nations and in the capitals of those countries with seats on the Security Council, both permanent and nonpermanent members. On one hand, we want to explain the importance of the High Court of Justice and its independence, as well as the significance of its ruling, both with regard to the advisory committees that must examine individual petitions and with regard to our unilateral readiness, following the High Court ruling, to reexamine each individual case, including those on which appeals have not been filed. We assume or rather hope that our public statements to this effect, together with political activity, will be able to convince the relevant parties to both wait until we reach our decisions and also to adopt resolutions that are acceptable to us.

[Paz] We have been following the reactions from Western Europe. France called it a serious political mistake; Britain: the problem remains unsolved; Italy: Rabin has made a terrible mistake. There were similar reactions from other countries. These harsh reactions from the West constitute quite a serious diplomatic attack.

[Beilin] Obviously there would have been a different reaction had the High Court of Justice decided to return all of the deportees. We did not hope for a decision of that kind. We wanted the High Court to uphold the government's decision. Today, the ball is in the hands of the Israeli Government, and I assume that from now on the matter will be handled in a way that will relieve Israel of much of the burden.

[Levi] Yes, but the Israeli Government is waiting to see how things turn out at the advisory committees. Does the Israeli Government somewhat hope that the advisory committees will return some of the deportees as a strong bargaining chip prior to the Security Council debate?

[Beilin] I obviously do not know exactly what decisions will be made. I do not believe that at this point anyone knows the results of these decisions; however, we are clearly talking about a very comprehensive and thorough examination of each individual case that could lead to results that are different from the situation currently in the field.

[Paz] What about the United States? We have just heard that official elements in the United States have expressed dissatisfaction. Do you think that the United States will veto any decision on sanctions at this stage?

[Beilin] I very much hope that we shall not have to get to the stage where America finds itself facing the dilemma of having to choose between allowing a very harsh resolution against Israel or exercising its veto.

[Paz] What has official Jerusalem heard from Washington?

[Beilin] I will simply reiterate that yesterday's decision has brought about no changes in the field. Therefore, there has been no change in U.S. policy. The United States obviously does not find its present position comfortable. Again, I assume that once several days have passed, and if the situation appears to have changed for the better, then the United States will also have an easier time acting.

[Levi] Deputy Minister Beilin, has the peace process or, to use the new catchword, the process of making peace been harmed to the extent that it still has not begun to recover from the deportation affair?

[Beilin] There is some uncertainty regarding the convening of the bilateral and multilateral committees. We have until 9 February, when the first multilateral committee on arms control is scheduled to convene. I very much hope that by then the picture will clear and permit the talks to be held. We said, and the prime minister declared yesterday, that just as Israel continues to participate in the talks while combating terrorist activity—and even faces domestic criticism over this—the Arab side must also stick to the negotiations process despite being unhappy about the deportations affair. We hope the talks will continue.

[Paz] Shim'on Peres is due to meet the Egyptian foreign minister in Switzerland today. Will he attempt to smooth over differences with Egypt or perhaps to persuade 'Amr Musa to influence Butrus-Ghali?

[Beilin] No, I do not think that the foreign minister intends to try to influence Butrus-Ghali through his compatriot, the Egyptian foreign minister. Butrus-Ghali is the secretary general of the United Nations, and I do not imagine that he receives orders or consults with the Egyptian foreign minister. Neither will the meeting deal so much with smoothing over differences, because our relationship with Egypt has not been particularly affected. In the past, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa came with several proposals to try to resolve the problem in order to promote the peace process, which is very important to Egypt. I assume that this meeting will be part of the same process. [passage omitted]

Deportation Said Not Mistake

TA2801180093 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Interview with Police and Communications Minister Moshe Shahal by Dan Margalit; place not given—live]

[Text] [Margalit] They say that one of the major architects of the entire deportation move is Police and Communications Minister Moshe Shahal, and he is here with us. Good evening, Minister Shahal.

[Shahal] Good evening.

[Margalit] Now that you have read the High Court of Justice ruling, seen all the complications, and seen that Butrus-Ghali is suggesting that the United Nations impose sanctions on us—was it a mistake to opt for the deportation order, which the court termed illegal?

[Shahal] Certainly not. The opposite is true. I believe that through its ruling today the High Court of Justice commended the government as having been too careful. Ironically, the ruling is being interpreted to mean that the collective deportation order is null and void. The ruling says that the government has a much wider authority—that it may carry out deportations for an indefinite period of time and without a preliminary hearing. Incidentally, this contradicts the interpretation of many of the legal experts, whom I will not name, who said it is impossible. Surprisingly—and I was surprised as well—the court says: Not true; you may deport.

The government was being careful for a very clear reason. There was a special emergency situation that called for immediate action. Deportations had become ineffective because they were carried out a year after the issuance of an order. Based on legal advice, we assumed that there was no other way. The High Court of Justice today issued a completely different ruling. Not only have I not changed my mind; today I am twice as proud. I am proud that the government's security concept received a very practical backing by the High Court of Justice. The other thing I am proud of is the fact that the State of Israel is the only country in the world where any resident of an occupied territory may appeal to the highest legal instance and he will be heard, just like any Israeli citizen.

[Margalit] Who am I, Mr. Shahal, to argue with you? But, allow me only to present this question: I am not certain that the court legitimized the defense considerations. It avoided the question of whether this is an irregular case which justifies the deportation of those men without being allowed to have their say before the deportation is acted on. The court did not say what you said. It said that it is avoiding this question. It did not back the government's defense policy, nor did it do the opposite.

[Shahal] In saying that, the court was referring to the collective deportation order, meaning that it did not rule that such a move may not be taken in the future. Such steps will be taken in the future if they are called for. Still, contrary to many other incidents, the court opened its ruling today with a description of the kidnapping of Nisim Toledano, God bless his soul. It cites excerpts of the Hamas covenant—which includes some amazing statements. It clearly says that Hamas is an organization with a single goal: the destruction of the State of Israel. All of these arguments were not made for academic reasons. They were made for the practical reason of justifying the right to carry out the deportations and, under special circumstances, without granting the deportees the right to appeal.

[Margalit] Still, the Prime Minister's Bureau issued a communique saying that the security information on the deportees will be reexamined immediately. Judging from the international pressure, we see that the matter cannot be settled by the High Court of Justice alone. The French have already expressed regret over the court ruling. My question, therefore, is: Was this political quandary worth it?

[Shahal] First of all, there is nothing new here. I wish to put every Israeli at ease: There is a disagreement between us and the rest of the world over whether we have the right to deport inciters, murderers, and men who endanger our very existence. We have never accepted the interpretation accepted by the world, the United Nations, and incidentally by the United States as well.

I am sorry to say that there is a problem of double standards where Israel is concerned, which is an important thing. Now, beyond the specific case of the deportation, there was a need for this government to deliver a clear and unequivocal message for peace. The government said: We are ready to attain peace; we know that this calls for concessions, but we will make them under one condition—that the security of our citizens is guaranteed.

[Margalit] Even at the cost of such a serious dispute with the new U.S. Administration and a threat of having the United Nations impose sanctions on us for the first time in Israel's history?

[Shahal] The debates will continue. The negotiations are not going to be easy or simple. I believe that this government acted properly, demonstrating sober political realism—unlike other parties, such as the Likud, that made declarations completely unconnected to the reality.

[Margalit] Are you saying that we should adhere to the deportations?

[Shahal] We are saying that the issue of deportation is not interesting. The most important thing is: We will not tolerate any harm to our security! At the same time we are sending a message to the Palestinian leadership: Those who want to talk to us should rise and condemn the murders....

[Margalit, interrupting] But should we leave the deportees where they are, or should we return them now?

[Shahal] Look, deportation is a tool. Today, after it scored an achievement and victory—both legal and moral—the government may consider each case individually. I believe that the Prime Minister's Bureau today took a step that made it unequivocally clear that every technical means will be used to carry out each of the court's decisions to the letter. After all, the government received the court's moral support for its defense policy.

[Margalit] Minister Shahal, thank you.

[Shahal] Thank you.

Justice Minister Comments

TA2801171593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Justice Minister David Liba'i by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] All the cabinet ministers except one lent their hand on 16 December 1992 to the decision on the deportations. The only minister who abstained in the vote was Justice Minister Professor David Liba'i. Good evening, sir.

[Liba'i] Good evening.

[Friedman] You explained your abstention by saying the decision might not be put to the test of the High Court of Justice. In retrospect, the government's main action—the collective deportation order—stood the test of the High Court of Justice and was not overruled, although the judges construed it as a batch of individual deportation orders. In other words, your colleagues in the cabinet who are lawyers by profession and who backed the decision as well as Attorney General Yosef Harish were right, while the justice minister was wrong. Is that so?

[Liba'i] I think that is a very simplistic interpretation, which does not square with the ruling, as anybody perusing it knows. I abstained in the vote because I had doubts about the legal basis of the deportations. I think the fact that the High Court of Justice invalidated the collective deportation order issued by decision of the government proves that my doubts were fully justified. As far as I am concerned, 10 minutes are not enough to formulate a considered and serious opinion, and that is why I abstained. It is no secret that I favor fighting Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] to the bitter end, but I have misgivings about using deportation as a form of punishment. The circumstances we now encounter ourselves show that one should be very careful when resorting to this measure.

[Friedman] Mr. Liba'i, would it be right to say that the dispute over the legality of the deportation has actually not been finally settled and will now be tested by the appeals committee and that the High Court of Justice may also review it? Will the question of giving enough time to consider the matter, which you have just mentioned, also be tested by the appeals committees?

[Liba'i] That is not accurate. I think the High Court of Justice backs the decision of the prime minister and the government, and I am pleased about it. The court ruled the collective deportation order invalid but the deportations remain valid. It further ruled that an error was committed by not giving the deportees the right to plead their case, but it did not go into the question of whether there was cause to deport these men without first hearing them. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that on the question of whether it was justified to deport them without first giving them the right to plead their case, the court explicitly states that it did not dwell on the legality of that phase.

The deportees are there. In view of the special circumstances and to enable the government to surmount difficulties they must be allowed to realize their right to plead their case. In other words, they should not just be allowed to appeal their case through lawyers but to plead their own case before the High Court of Justice individually. As for the legality of the deportation of each of the 400 cases, the deportees will be allowed to plead their case before the military committee established for this purpose in accordance with the defense regulations for times of emergency.

[Friedman] And what if the committee decides that not enough consideration was given to the decision? To wit, Minister Liba'i was only given 10 minutes to make up his mind about all the deportees. Might the committees not remove the legal basis of the entire deportation by discussing each order individually?

[Liba'i] I would not say that. Each committee will discuss every case submitted to it on merit, and not the deportation of all 400 or so men. The committee will look into the reasons behind each case and whether the information the decisionmakers had justified the deportation.

All this applies to appeals to be submitted by the deportees. The court also took note of the affidavit submitted by the attorney general to the effect that the government—or to be more precise, the military commander—will also review the reasons behind each case. If as a result of this revision the military authorities realize that there was a mistake or that the decision should be reversed this will be done even if an appeal is not submitted.

[Dan] Did the government today get approval to carry out additional mass deportations?

[Liba'i] This is a most important point. In my opinion, by invalidating the collective deportation order the court ruled that it will not accept a new norm whereby individuals or groups are deported without a preliminary hearing. Furthermore, the ruling states that if deportations are carried out in an emergency and there is no time or possibility to allow the deportees a preliminary hearing the court will justify them in special cases, but even then the government is obliged to bring the men back to get a hearing in any place controlled by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

There has been a lot of bickering about the High Court of Justice running the government and the country. Through this ruling, the court actually said: Look, we are evincing a great deal of restraint. You made your decision and are now in the midst of an international imbroglio, you are and will continue to be in charge, but we will see to it that your actions meet the balance of security needs and the defense of individual rights. That is why we insist that you give them a real chance to plead their case, even if you have already deported them. Every case should be reviewed on merit, and each deportee must appear before the committee in person.

[Friedman] Prof. Liba'i, can you estimate how many of the individual deportation orders may be invalidated by the committees and how many deportees will be allowed to return, if at all?

[Liba'i] No, I cannot give you an estimate because I have no personal knowledge about the case the authorities had against each of the deportees when the decision was made to deport him.

[Dan] You will probably agree with us that not many members of the UN Security Council will be pleased with the court ruling. The question is: How will Israel react to an ultimatum? One may be issued soon. Next Monday the Council might decide on sanctions.

[Liba'i] I think the government will know how to deal with it. This must be discussed by the cabinet or by the inner cabinet.

[Friedman] When the affair began getting out of hand you said that if you had known at the time of the decision what you learned later you would have voted against it. Now that you know what you do, including the court ruling, how would you vote?

[Liba'i] Hindsight is the best sight. Knowing what I know now, I would have seen to it that we did not get into such a tangle. I reiterate, I definitely believe that the government must fight Hamas relentlessly. I think the High Court of Justice delivered a very serious indictment against Hamas and gave the government an extraordinary document to use in its public relations to explain that Hamas indeed endangers peace and Israel. All that is true. However, I think that a government that acts taking all consequences into consideration can strike at Hamas without getting into a sticky situation. Instead of seeing the justness of our cause—and our cause is just—the world accuses us. I would have gone to great lengths not to get to such a situation.

[Friedman] The world does not accuse Israel because the procedures of the deportation were at fault but because of the deportations per se. Can we infer from your remarks that in its relentless fight against Hamas Israel would be well advised not to resort to deportations?

[Liba'i] That is correct, and I said as much when I was a Knesset member and at the beginning of my term as justice minister. The prime minister is aware of my position because we discussed it in connection with my recommendation to call off the deportation orders which had at one time been issued against 11 Palestinians. I do not object to deportations because I think there are more effective measures, but because they put us in a tangle with regard to international law and the question of to where the men should be deported and which country agrees to take them. They also create political complications, and that is why I would try my best not to get into such a tangle.

[Dan] We hear that the deportees will refuse to use their right to appeal. The question is how do we get out of this tangle.

[Liba'i] An excellent question, one which will be discussed by the cabinet. One thing is clear: Not only the deportees, but also the military authorities, may initiate a revision of the individual cases. The big question is how we deal now with the international pressure and how we explain our positions abroad. These issues will be discussed and dealt with by the cabinet.

[Dan] Sir, thank you very much.

Shim'on Peres Visits Switzerland

[cross-reference]
WA2901160093

For reportage on Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' visit to Switzerland, including his participation in the World Economic Forum and his talks with Swiss officials, see the International Affairs and Switzerland sections of the 29 January West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Stone-Throwing in Khan Yunus; Firebomb in Hebron

TA2801212193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] In stone-throwing incidents in Khan Yunus today, 19 local residents were slightly injured by plastic bullets. They were taken to the hospital, and five of them remained there for further treatment. This was reported by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman to our correspondent Moti Amir.

In Hebron, a firebomb was thrown this evening at an IDF patrol. No one was hurt. The soldiers fired at the location from which the firebomb was thrown. A curfew was imposed on the casbah area, and searches were conducted.

Officials, Media React to Israeli Court Ruling

National Assembly Speakers Comment

JN2801171893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has said that the Israeli court's ruling concerning the Palestinian deportees is not surprising in view of the fact that the Zionist institution and all its authorities proceed from one unifying orientation; namely, the illegitimate usurpation of Palestinian and Arab territories, evicting their inhabitants, and exercising all forms of killing, displacement, deportation, and judaization. He said that this ruling places us again before the question of international responsibility, legitimacy, and human rights everywhere in the world. He said this responsibility, in accordance with the UN Charter, is binding, and requires that the UN Security Council resolutions and other UN resolutions be enforced in accordance with one standard.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat, speaker of the House of Representatives, described the Israeli court's ruling as a new judicial crime which follows the military crimes that have been committed against the Palestinian people over the past years. Dr. 'Arabiyat said that this ruling places the United Nations, the Security Council, all honorable forces in the world, and the sons of the Arab and Islamic nation before their responsibilities, exposes the reality of their enemy, and stresses their role in closing the ranks of their one nation.

Newspapers Criticize Decision

JN2901110493 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0520 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Today's newspaper editorials and commentaries deal with the Israeli High Court's decision to support the mass deportation of Palestinians—a decision which is considered a challenge to all values and laws, as well the international community.

AL-DUSTUR says: The Israeli High Court decision has made many important indications concerning the situation of the Palestinian deportees. Indeed, it appeared for some time that the Israeli court might issue a decision that would relieve Yitzhaq Rabin's government of a possible confrontation with the UN Security Council and world public opinion. Hence, all attempts at obstruction and procrastination by the United States to postpone a UN Security Council emergency session have lost their justification now that the decision by Rabin's court has foiled Washington's wager on the possibility of this court relieving the United States of any possible embarrassment in the UN Security Council.

AL-DUSTUR continues: Therefore, the United States, which placed the Israeli court at a level higher than the UN Security Council itself, and which obstructed the Council's session awaiting the Rabin government's political ruling, should reconsider its wrongful assumptions and from now on work more harmoniously with its stated objectives. The United States is also called upon to support the UN Security Council in this confrontation with Israel so that the international organization will not lose all its respect.

AL-DUSTUR concludes by saying: We realize that after the political ruling made by Rabin's court of justice, the issue of deportees reached a new turning point, even more complicated than the previous one. Hence, we hope that the international community, including the United States and the EC, will react to this arrogant Israeli stand in accordance with what is dictated by all the values and principles they advocate, including freedom, justice, and human rights. They should also avoid the complication of dealing with Israel as a state that is above the law and above the will of the UN Security Council.

AL-RA'Y says: Rabin preferred to employ the comic decision and, immediately after it was issued, to escalate his government's intransigence toward the deportees. He claimed that the decision should now enable Israel to continue the peace process and, at the same time, confront terrorism. The Israeli prime minister ignores the fact that the deportation crime he committed is in itself an organized terrorist act and that the Israeli court ruling could turn the crime into an acceptable act. He also ignored the fact that crime cannot pave the way to achieving a real peace in the region.

AL-RA'Y continues: In light of all this, there is a need for action by the Arabs, the European Community, and the United States to exercise influence on Israel so that it will return the deportees without procrastination and end this problem which it created on its own over a month ago.

AL-RA'Y concludes by saying, if the French circles's opposition to the Israeli decision is an expression of these circles' awareness, which deserves to be appreciated, then such opposition should be translated into French and European action to force Israel into complying with UN Security Council Resolution 799, thereby entrenching the conviction that there is still an opportunity for legitimacy to regain its respect on this planet.

SAWT AL-SHA'B says: Now that Rabin has managed, thanks to U.S. support, to postpone or obstruct the UN Security Council session that will discuss Israel's refusal to comply with its Resolution 799, then the Israeli High Court decision places the United Nations and all its organizations in a very difficult predicament. Here, the extent of the UN secretary general's seriousness in his call to use force against Israel to return the deportees will be revealed. The extent of the seriousness of the UN Security Council and its permanent key member states to respect international legitimacy and its resolutions will also be revealed.

Naturally, the Israeli High Court decision, which supports the mass deportation of Palestinians, has received angry reactions on both the Arab and international levels. This stringent Israeli stand could endanger the peace process, especially since the Palestinian deportees can accept no alternative to their returning home. This embarrasses the Arab cordon states, at the head of which is the Palestinian negotiating team, and puts them in a predicament.

The Clinton administration's respect for international legitimacy and Security Council resolutions is also put to a difficult test. The ball is now in its court.

House Decision on Segregation Criticized

JN2801071693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Jan 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Juxtaposed Priorities"]

[Text] The Lower House of Parliament's resolution yesterday to segregate men and women at swimming pools and other recreational facilities and sports centres in the Kingdom reinforces our belief that many of our deputies do not know what democracy is all about. The constitution of the land clearly states that personal freedoms shall be guaranteed. Yet, all this House seems to be doing is curtail basic human rights, whether by curbing freedoms of the press or outlawing free financial investments or banning alcohol and now by trying to segregate the sexes. To do the latter, by the force of law, is to institutionalise new forms of dictatorship based on the misuse of old democratc values. The democracy that brought the 80 deputies to the chambers of free thought and free debate must not and, by the will of people, should not, give the honourable gentlemen the right to legislate, legalise or outlaw our personal preferences or choices. Those who do not like half of the society to live, work and think with the other half can do so in the privacy of their own homes and backyards, but cannot impose their will on the whole society of modern state, which prides itself on respecting basic human rights. This is a very serious issue. Liberal and reasonable minded people in this country should not sit idle while they see the "people's representatives" infringe on their rights and freedoms as citizens. The issue here is not desegregation or segregation at swimming pools and other public facilities. It is about the core of the debate of the sort of democracy that we seek: Tribal or civic, forward looking or ultimately backward. If we choose the former, in either case we will continue to oppress the individual with our tribal ethics, some of which are totally unsuitable to the modern age. If we opt for the latter, which we strongly believe we should do, then we ought to free the individual from the shackles of dark-age restrictions that led to our present-day backwardness. Segregation at swimming pools or as in earlier examples at government departments is only the first step towards segregation in all walks of life. The conservative-reactionary alliance seems determined to achieve this goal because it strives to control people and their behaviour. It is unfortunate that progressive forces are not only submitting to this, but some of the so-called liberals and leftists are joining hands with the ultra-conservative camp to help it achieve its agenda. The supposedly open-minded Cabinet of ours and its parliamentary base are to blame for this regression. This is because His Majesty the King's successive governments have consistently had as their mandate programmes that are supposed to take Jordan into the modern ages, into the 21st century. And it is not only that. The present government has its guidelines also embedded in the respect for democracy and basic freedoms. The Cabinet and its loyal bloc in Parliament should not always be taken by surprise by the ultra-conservatives' movements and actions and should always be prepared to put up a fight when issues like these come up in the House. This government should, in theory at least, represent progress. And as such it should defend the values of individuals in the country and not just the objectives of organised groups and other political bullies. But the ultimate responsibility rests on the shoulders of all open-minded and democracy-conscious groups and citizens themselves. Unless they create the civic structures that could shield and protect their freedoms and values, they are bound to be the losers. We should not just sing the praises of democracy while forgetting about our responsibilities and duties as enlightened citizens. Democracy is a political tool but liberty is an inherent right of ours. the ultra conservatives' onslaught on indiidual liberties, under whatever name it comes, must be resisted in order to be able to move forward.

Buwayz on 'Faulty Methods' Used in Region

NC2801133993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Report by Khalil Fulayhan from the Lebanese Foreign Ministry]

[Text] This afternoon Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz called on the United States to boost the peace process. Addressing the UN Security Council, which represents international legality, and the United States, which considers itself entrusted to safeguard international justice and right, Buwayz said that faulty measures in the region pose a major challenge to the credibility of the Security Council, the United Nations, and the United States.

During a news conference at Bustrus Palace [Lebanese Foreign Ministry], Buwayz commented on the Israeli High Court of Justice's ruling on the Palestinian deportees.

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] The Israeli High Court of Justice decision comes as no surprise. What is surprising is the contradiction between Israel's professing to be a democratic, developed, open state that safeguards human rights and its actual political methods. What is happening now and what occurred previously is a major challenge to the rights of citizens and nations. We ask: Where are the human rights organizations that examine the human rights records of many countries and their adherence to international law and norms?

Doubtless, the Israeli High Court of Justice decision did not consider the Palestinian citizen's legal rights or even the proposed regional peace. Certainly, this decision does not encourage the resumption of the peace talks or help to remedy existing intransigence.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you believe the Israeli High Court of Justice decision will affect the steadfastness of the Lebanese position on the deportees?

[Buwayz] The Lebanese position is independent from the Israeli High Court of Justice decision. We are one party; Israel is another. The Lebanese Government is governed by unchangeable principles and positions that have no connection with the decisions made by domestic Israeli authorities. We address ourselves to the natural party of dialogue, namely the UN Security Council, representing international legality, and the United States, which considers itself entrusted to safeguard international justice and right. We tell them again that the existing faulty methods used in the region pose a major challenge to the credibility of the Security Council and the United Nations. [end recording]

'High-Level Government Source' on Israeli Ruling

NC2801210293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpt] A high-level government source has said that the Israeli court decision on the Palestinian deportees took official regional and international circles by surprise because they were expecting a different ruling.

The source said that the Lebanese stand remains the same and will continue as it is. Lebanon has achieved half of what it wants, the source said, adding: The deportees have not entered areas controlled by the state and the legitimate security forces; they have remained in the occupied territories. Lebanon wants them to return to their land. This is the basis for Lebanon's stand; namely, that we are concerned about this issue but are not responsible for it.

The high-level government source revealed that Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has remained in touch with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali to follow up developments on this issue. We have to wait for the world reaction to the Israeli decision, particularly the reaction of the United States, which has asked that the Security Council session to study the UN secretary general's report be delayed until the Israeli court issued its decision, the source added.

The source asserted that Lebanon's stand on this issue is firm, saying: The state will not let the deportees enter and will work with the Arab brothers and the international community to have them returned to their lands. The source added: Neither we nor the Palestinians will allow the issue to be turned into solely a humanitarian one. As we have reiterated, it is a political issue for which Israel is responsible. The deportees are in an Israel-occupied area. Israel should be blamed, not us.

The source discussed what UN stand the Lebanese Government is expecting, saying: Lebanon wants the Security Council resolution and measures called for in the resolution to be implemented. The source noted that the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers remains open pending the discussion of the issue in the Security Council, particularly as the Arab foreign ministers have proposed a mechanism for action.

The government source discussed whether the deportee issue will hurt Lebanon's stand in the Arab-Israeli negotiations, saying: Lebanon joined the Arab-Israeli negotiations on the basis of a joint Arab decision and will suspend or withdraw from them on the basis of a joint decision. Lebanon will not act unilaterally.

The source noted that the Lebanese and Syrian Governments have identical stands on the issue, particularly considering that Prime Minister al-Hariri raised it during his talks with Syrian officials last week. Contrary to what the media has reported, domestic and local issues were not issued during these talks, the source added. Within this context, the high-level government source said that President Ilyas al-Hirawi's contacts with Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad are normal and held whenever the need arises. This is done on the basis of bilateral cooperation and coordination. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister on Deportees, Syrian Assistance

NC2901105393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has stressed that solving the deportees issue lies in returning them home. In a statement to the newspaper AL-SHARQ, he said that the Israeli action is serious and unprecedented by any Nazi or fascist regime. He noted that the solution is in Israeli hands: It should stop its Nazi and fascist actions and return the deportees to their homes. He said: We have adopted the method of negotiations, but we cannot prevent resistance men from doing their national duty. When Israel withdraws from our land, he said, we pledge to prevent any operation from Lebanese territories and the Army will confront anyone trying to carry out an operation and consider him a saboteur seeking to subvert the peace process and harm Lebanese sovereignty and people.

On coordination between the Syrian and Lebanese Armies, Dallul said that coordination continues daily between us and we seek their help and support in every critical situation.

Hizballah Radio on Court Ruling on Detainees

NC2901104993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0650 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Commentary: "The Premeditated Verdict"]

[Text] The latest developments in the Palestinian strugglers unjustly expelled from their homes show that the Zionist High Court passed a verdict today [as heard] legalizing their deportation. None of the seven judges of the court opposed the verdict. News agencies did not report the details of the verdict, which is already known, but they said it was based on the British mandate laws, which are unquestionably legal. Thus the court has legalized what the military decided. That is why we noted in our headline that the actual verdict was handed down before the trial. The verdict was premeditated and the trial and hearing were orchestrated to find legal justifications.

This is not new to the hostile Zionist entity, which is considered a military army with a political system and not a political system with an army like other countries. It is well know that the military establishment in the Zionist entity is many times larger than the state on all levels. Even most of the budgets of ministries are spent in accordance with the needs of defense, the Defense Ministry and the Israel Defense Forces [IDF], as enemy leaders like to call it. This army, which is deceitfully and deviously called the IDF, is an offensive army with distinction in view of its weapons, mobilization, and raison d'etre for half a century. Even when it was in the form of gangs the IDF never defended an external assault. It has consistently launched offensives, sought expansion, and persisted in piracy, kidnapping, and usurpation. This orientation is a strategic decision in the so-called Israel. This orientation has not and will not change because the political entity is without geographic or security borders. The army commanders, who late in their military service turn into politicians, consistently maintain that their racist usurper entity's borders extend as far as Zionist soldiers can reach.

Rabin himself stated regarding the deportees that the court verdict will not change his decision, because the deportation decision involves security, which is more important than the law. Thus the talk about court and trial and the United States' waiting for the Israeli court ruling are intended to deceive. The U.S. position aims at a number of goals, most important of which are the following:

1. To dilute the issue by waiting and dissipating the wrath aroused by the Arab and information media over the stark Palestinian tragedy dramatized on the snow-covered hills of Marj al-Zuhur.

2. To search for justifications to legalize the crude uprooting of well over 400 people who have high academic qualifications. Thus the so-called High Court in the racist usurper entity came, as usual, to legalize a premeditated verdict passed and implemented by the security authorities. The court did not seek repeal of the decision, as certain people imagined. Rabin's assertion that security is above the court ruling is the actual ceiling given to the so-called court. This is manifest in its unanimous verdict.

3. To feign before the world that the Zionist racist entity is a democratic state with courts, separation of powers, and justice that deals fairly even with enemies.

Now that the court ruling has been passed, the security issue has been mixed up with legal jargon, and the U.S. request to wait for the Israeli court ruling has expired, what will happen? An official U.S. spokesman who refused to be identified said that the United States will veto any resolution that supplements Resolution 799 and provides for sanctions and imposes implementation of this resolution. This position is also understood and premeditated. If it were not for such a U.S. veto that is exploited to serve the Jewish usurper entity, it would be possible to contemplate a neutral Security Council and a United Nations that would impose sanctions. When it is possible for the Zionists to abolish a Security Council resolution that once equated Zionism with racism, what can we expect?

Are our people required to know more about America's relations with the Zionist entity that usurped our land in Palestine and more than Palestine? Does any hope remain for the present, past, and future deportees to contemplate their return home through UN laws and political contacts? The latest uprooting of Palestinians is only unprecedented in the number of deportees. Its danger lies in the fact that it may turn into a consistent Zionist course of action and a model solution to empty our occupied land of its population and rightful owners. We are no longer so naive as to call on our rulers for help

and take a united stand on this step. They are tied to a varying degrees to U.S. desires. We pray to God for guidance and stress once again that the only solution lies in all forms of resistance in all arenas, and reliance on God and the people rather than rulers.

UNIFIL Denies Planned Reduction in Force

NC2801124293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Timor Goksel, spokesman for the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], today denied newspaper reports citing him as having said that the UNIFIL decided to reduce its numbers. He said that UNIFIL decreased its numbers by 10 percent last year and the reduction only involved administrative workers. He said that there are no new developments in this area.

French Francophone Minister Arrives 27 Jan

NC2801085493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Catherine Tasca, French minister delegate for Francophone Affairs, will meet the president, Chamber of Deputies speaker, prime minister, and minister of information and visit several cultural, health, and tourist sites today.

Arriving in Beirut last night, Tasca said the French Government follows reconstruction in Lebanon and the recovery of its independence and sovereignty. She explained aspects of Lebanese-French cultural cooperation through Francophone activity.

Islamic Jihad Official on Israeli Court Ruling

NC2901084693 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Commenting on the Israeli High Court ruling, Islamic Jihad spokesman Dr. 'Abdallah al-Shami said: For how long will leading countries remain subservient to U.S. policy? As for us, we will speak out. We will never accept such an institution or ruling. Our objective will always be to expose the falsehood of the State of Israel and its judges, rulers, and policy.

Iranian Charge on Support for People, Resistance

NC2801091193 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Homayun 'Alizaden, charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic's Embassy in Beirut, has noted that Iran's aid to the Lebanese people aims to build Lebanon's strength to confront the Zionist aggression and to make the enemy understand that the Lebanese people and steadfast citizens of the south and western al-Biqa' are not alone in the confrontation.

In an interview with our radio yesterday, he said the Islamic Republic welcomes consolidating national unity, because it helps to liberate Lebanese land and to establish the state's authority over its territory.

Emphasizing that resistance is the most suitable option to end the occupation, he said: We appreciate the Lebanese Government's efforts to liberate the south and western al-Biqa'.

He said that through its resistance to occupation, the Lebanese nation demonstrated that when united, the nation can achieve victory and confront the enemy and noted that the Lebanese people's jihad is now the object of pride and honor for everyone. He said the confrontation caused suffering and so Iran rushed to nurse the pain and help the Lebanese people in the confrontation.

He said the south was one of the most important issues discussed during Lebanese officials' visits to Iran and we sensed their firm and good intentions to support resistance and citizens' steadfastness.

Commander Defends Army's Domestic Security Role

NC2801201693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud has announced that security is a permanent requirement for the homeland to become stable and the citizen to be able to live. He said that security is the foundation on which the political, economic, reconstruction, and development components of the state rest.

In his monthly address to the military, published in AL-JAYSH magazine, Gen. Lahhud added: We refuse to accept complaints about the Army's field role or have aspersions cast on it at this time when political, economic, and social stability are still being formalized.

Gen. Lahhud continued: What makes us insist on maintaining security is the fact that almost daily, we uncover arms and ammunition caches concealed by some parties.

He called on everyone to become enlightened, not to try to outwit the state, and to acknowledge, in deeds not words, that states within the state cannot be allowed and no one can develop private schemes at the homeland's expense.

The Army commander discussed the grave threats to the homeland, including the persistent Israeli view that Lebanon is a territory without an owner and, therefore, open to resettlement. He stressed that the Palestinians cannot be resettled in Lebanon, regardless of whether this is attempted by gradual deportation or the mass transfer of population. He emphasized the importance of coordination with Syria in light of the permanently united destiny of the two countries and their common strategic outlook on the dangers surrounding them.

Incident at al-Rumayl Phalangist Center Detailed

NC2801080793 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Emile 'Id, head of the transitional committee set up by the Phalangist Political Bureau, failed yesterday to take control of the Phalangist Party center in al-Rumayl.

At 1800, 'Id and a group of his aides tried to force their way into al-Rumayl Phalangist Party center, but party members tried to stop him; al-Rumayl center had not received orders from center officials to let 'Id in. 'Id and his five aides drew their guns and threatened to shoot before a Lebanese Army unit deployed in the area intervened.

A source in the provincial and area leaders' office commented on the incident, saying it was reckless behavior by 'Id and only leads to further split. The source appealed to all Phalangists to be patient and wise and to avert confrontation with comrades of the same party.

In a statement issued yesterday evening, the Phalangist Party General Secretariat said: Emile 'Id, head of the executive transitional committee in al-Rumayl, accompanied by former area leader Jo Iddih, visited. After they entered the Phalangist center, a military dispute took place with some of the armed personnel in and near the center, but the Army intervened and arrested the personnel.

Afterward, the statement added, Emile 'Id returned to the Phalangist Party central office, where he met the party leader and secretary general and briefed them on what happened.

Two SLA Soldiers Killed in Attack in South

NC2801155193 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1530 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Our military correspondent reports that an attempt was made to attack a South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in Sujud area at noon today. At the same time, another SLA post in the same area was shelled. Our correspondent adds that the attempt failed, that the SLA chased the aggressors, and clashed with them, resulting in the martyrdom of two SLA soldiers and the wounding of eight others, one of seriously. The wounded were evacuated by military helicopter to Rambam Hospital [in Haifa]. The SLA and the Israeli Army combed the area after the incident.

In another incident, an SLA patrol discovered an explosive device, which it detonated without sustaining any casualties.

Resistance Claims Over 10 Killed in 28 Jan Attacks

NC2901082993 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Martyr Muhammad Muqallad Group of the Islamic Resistance yesterday attacked a joint Zionist-Lahd patrol on 'Aramta-al-Rayhan road, killing four of the patrol's personnel and wounding others.

In another development, Martyr 'Abdallah Wahbi Karbala' Group and Martyr Majid Yassal Ya'qub yesterday attacked a position in Sujud with rockets and heavy artillery, scoring direct hits against it and killing and wounding a number of its personnel. At 1905, an enemy Reinforcement unit arrived at the scene only to come under swift attack by the Martyr Shaykh Husayn Qansuh Group of the Islamic resistance. The group destroyed an enemy personnel carrier, killing six soldiers and wounding two others.

The Martyr Nasir al-Mismar Abu-al-Zahra' group of the Islamic Resistance yesterday attacked Bi'r Kallab position with rockets and machine guns. Fierce clashes ensued between the resistance groups and the enemy in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

An Islamic Resistance statement promised the Islamic nation's leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and the martyrs, the wounded, and the downtrodden members of the Islamic nation that it will continue to march along the path of jihad and resistance until liberation and victory.

Foreign Minister Denounces Israeli Court Ruling

JN2901084293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] Syria has denounced Israel's stance toward the issue of the Palestinian deportees and its defiance of the international community's will. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said the Israeli court ruling was not unexpected because it stems from Israel's expansionist policies which conflict with the peace process. He added: Expelling people from their land, in which they lived for thousands of years, is the most serious violation of human rights. The foreign minister urged the Security Council to adopt a single standard and to shoulder its responsibility and implement its resolution, which called for repatriating the Palestinian deportees. The Security Council, he added, should not allow Israel to continue to be above the Security Council resolutions or continue to deviate from international legitimacy if a just and comprehensive peace is sought in the region.

UNSC Urged To 'Foil' Rabin, Court Ruling

JN2801175893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin has expressed his satisfaction with the Israeli court's ruling on the deportees. As he expected, or as he arranged, the ruling came as a way out of his nightmare. The Israeli court's ruling gave Rabin a cover not to immediately go back on the expulsion despite the court's ruling that the decision itself is illegal. The deportation decision is considered illegal not because of the fairness of the Israeli court, but because of the political calculations which indirectly serve the efforts of the Rabin government by preventing any international measure against it. Therefore, the Israeli court has no other choice but to rule the illegality of expulsion because it, blatantly and unjustly, violates the Geneva Conventions on the conditions of citizens under occupation. Rabin's acceptance of the court's challenge of the legality of expulsion was some of the bitterness which he has to swallow at the hands of the court whose opinion he refrained from seeking before the expulsion, hoping that this bitterness will save him from the sword of sanctions brandished by the UN Security Council in the face of Israel unless it goes back on the expulsion decision.

However, Rabin was satisfied with the court ruling because it gave him room to dilute the issue of deportees and to turn it from a pressing political issue that requires a swift solution in accordance with an international decision into a procedural issue that accepts procrastination and needs unlimited time, during which each deportation case will be dealt with separately. There is no doubt that this is the cause of Rabin's satisfaction because after he had failed to gain the two UN envoys' collusion to turn the issue into a humanitarian one, his court came, with its alleged fairness, to make the issue a procedural one.

The fact is that if the UN Security Council does not take the initiative to foil Rabin's game and his court ruling, the Israeli prime minister can congratulate himself because he was able to ensure through the ruling of his court not only a cover in order not to go back on the deportation, but also to place the ruling of this court above the UN Security Council resolution after he has succeeded so far, through Washington's help, in preventing this council from resuming its debate on the issue of deportees and from taking necessary punitive measures against Israel in order to make it implement the will of international legitimacy.

The clear Rabin game and ruling of his court, which he wants to place above the Security Council resolution and above the international will, makes us ask: What is required vis-a-vis this situation on the Arab and international levels? Shall we wait for the fairness of the Israeli court which is not trusted by anybody, particularly by the deportees themselves, and which was disregarded even by Rabin himself—unless it gives him a way out of his impasse? Or, should Arab and international pressure continue until Israel implements the resolutions of international legitimacy so that this legitimacy will not turn, at the hands of Israeli rulers and the fairness of their court, into a subject for ridicule and cheap games?

There is no doubt that the Arabs have no other choice but to depend on international legitimacy to extricate any of their rights and to stand in the face of and resist those who try to place or collude to place the Israeli law of the jungle above this legitimacy.

Israeli High Court Ruling on Deportees Viewed

JN2901093193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Press review]

[Text] Our papers' political commentaries and analyses today concentrate on the ruling by the Israeli High Court, which yesterday supported the decision to deport Palestinian citizens from their country and the duty which the U.S. Administration and the world community have to fulfill vis-a-vis Israel's defiance.

In its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: Israel has once again challenged the United Nations and its will by driving its judiciary into a direct challenge of international law. The Israeli High Court's ruling confirms that Israel is a military establishment whose alleged democracy is merely deceptive camouflage.

The paper explains that this Israeli policy gimmick was directed against two parties. First, the UN Security Council when Israel considered the ruling of its High Court more important and supreme than the Security Council and its resolutions. The second, the new U.S.

Administration. President Clinton has pledged to give the United Nations power and capability. He now faces a difficult test, to which he was pushed by Israel.

AL-BA'TH believes that threats to use the veto will return the United Nations to the way it was in the past, powerless and ineffective, and will deprive the Security Council of its powers, except within limits dictated by the United States and in matters that serve Israel. The paper says: A U.S. veto this time will tie the hands of the new U.S. Administration and make it hostage to a policy controlled by Israeli interests.

The paper concludes its editorial by saying: The ball is now not only in the UN court, but also in the U.S. court. The new U.S. Administration must fulfill its promises and support what is right.

On the same subject, AL-THAWRAH says in an article: This newest Israeli position shows that Israel, which has never paid attention to international legitimacy and which has always refused to implement any of its resolutions, is continuing with the same defiant policy, unconcerned about the United Nations and its repeated warnings, or about all the resolutions that may be issued in the future with the aim of deterring Israeli violations of human rights and the UN Charter.

AL-THAWRAH says Israel, which is used to defying the world community, would not have been able to continue with this policy if it was not confident that a superpower stands behind it, supporting and encouraging it to practice such a policy and providing it with the necessary protection inside and outside the United Nations.

The paper adds: The Israeli court has put the United Nations before a major and flagrant challenge. In the face of such a challenge, the UN Security Council must play its role and exercise its full powers to defend its prestige and maintain the credibility of the United Nations.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: International legitimacy and its institutions are today facing a test, which, if they fail to pass and resolve such small problems, will make them lose all justification for their existence and credibility as a refuge for peoples and an arbitrator and an authorized referee to resolve international conflicts and difficulties on the basis of right, justice, and equality, to protect world security and peace.

The paper says: The United Nations will be facing a grave danger if Israel remains above international legitimacy and if the Israeli so-called High Court is viewed as the alternative to the world organization which has the final say.

The paper says: The same danger faces the United States, the launcher of the peace initiative and the sponsor of the peace process on the basis of implementing Resolutions 242 and 338. Any show of tolerance by the United States toward Israel's repeated refusal to return the Palestinian deportees, and Israel's constant threats against peace and violations and defiance of international law, will harm U.S. prestige and credibility.

Al-Zu'bi Interviewed on PKK, Ocalan, Euphrates

NC2901113593 Istanbul MILLIYET in Turkish 20 Jan 93 p 11

["Exclusive" interview with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi by MILLIYET correspondent Nur Batur in Damascus on 18 January—ellipses as published]

[Text] [Batur] The United States, Britain, and France have resumed their bombing raids against Iraq. Do you believe Saddam Husayn's position is threatened?

[Al-Zu'bi] His people already believe his position is threatened. He insists on remaining in power against their wishes. These developments will affect the people, the system, and the country.

[Batur] Can Saddam Husayn be overthrown?

[Al-Zu'bi] That is an issue that concerns the Iraqi people.

[Batur] The effort made to establish a Kurdish state in the region is one of the most important results of the Gulf War... Turkey, Iran, and Syria have opposed that effort... Could you obstruct the establishment of a Kurdish state?

[Al-Zu'bi] We oppose Iraq's fragmentation and the establishment of a new state in the region. May God protect the region from such a development. The establishment of a new state will create very negative results.

[Batur] Isn't it true that Iraq will be fragmented if Saddam Husayn remains in power?

[Al-Zu'bi] The Iraqi people also oppose fragmentation... Saddam Husayn is weakening Iraq by insisting on remaining in power.

[Batur] Certain circles equate Milosevic in the Balkan region with Saddam Husayn. Iraq is being bombed while the world remains indifferent to the tragic situation in Bosnia. Is that not a policy of double standards?

[Al-Zu'bi] Yes. A policy of double standards exists in the so-called new world order. The UN Security Council resolutions are applied in one place but not in another.

[Batur] Let us discuss the problems in relations between Turkey and Syria. For years, the activities of the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] in Syria have created serious crises in relations between Ankara and Damascus. Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said Turkey has information confirming that PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan still lives in Syria. Does he?

[Al-Zu'bi] Turkey and Syria cooperate on security issues. Neither Turkey nor Syria should be a paradise for those who may threaten the security of the other country. An excellent atmosphere of understanding exists between

the two sides on this. We attach importance to Turkey's security. We asked our friends in Lebanon to obstruct the PKK's activities in that country. They have complied. Our Turkish friends know of this. We continue to exchange information on the PKK leader.

[Batur] Does Abdullah Ocalan enter Syria from time to time?

[Al-Zu'bi] (frowning as if to say we should not press him) The two countries cooperate on issues relating to that person. The Turkish side is satisfied.

[Batur] Abdullah Ocalan met a group of Turkish journalists in Syria seven or eight months ago.

[Al-Zu'bi] Well, why don't you go and ask those journalists...?

Euphrates River

[Batur] You receive 500 cubic meters of water from the Euphrates. Why do you say the water Turkey allows to flow is not enough?

[Al-Zu'bi] (seeming happier) We believe the Euphrates is a river of friendship and cooperation. It is an international river. It serves Syria, Iraq, and Turkey. Turkey promised during the construction of the Ataturk Dam in 1987 that it will allow over 500 cubic meters of water to flow into Syria. That promise would be valid until a final agreement was reached.

[Batur] Turkey has drawn up a project to prevent the loss of water.

[Al-Zu'bi] The project can be realized only if measures are taken to safeguard the interests and the rights of the three countries. The Euphrates should not be a river causing friction... We have been asked by certain circles why we have not taken the issue to the Arab League and the United Nations. We prefer to discuss the problem with our Turkish friends. We are confident we will understand each other.

[Batur] Will you take the issue to the Arab summit on 25 January?

[Al-Zu'bi] We refrained from taking the problem of the Euphrates river to the Arab League even when we had a crisis over the use of its water. We can find a solution between the two countries. We prefer to discuss and resolve the issue with Turkey. Do you believe a similar wish exists on the Turkish side?

[Batur] Has Turkey not displayed its goodwill by supplying 500 cubic meters of water even when the water level in the Euphrates was low?

[Al-Zu'bi] Our electricity supply is not enough. Everyone must be aware that the Euphrates does not belong to Turkey. It is an international river. The same applies to the Nile... A problem will be created if Syria, Iraq, and Turkey move to claim the Euphrates separately. Turkey is a rich country from the point of view of water resources.

[Batur] Let us leave the water problem aside. Are you prepared to hand Abdullah Ocalan to Turkey if you arrest him in Syria?

[Al-Zu'bi] (appearing to frown again) I prefer you not to ask me that question.

Afghanistan

Hekmatyar's Peace Plan Asks Rabbani To Step Down

BK2901092293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Jan 29 (AFP)—Hardline mojahedin leader Golboddin Hekmatyar has proposed a six-point formula to end factional fighting in Afghanistan, the news agency run by his Hezb-e Eslami faction said in a report published Friday. The dissident leader, whose forces are currently engaged in a renewed battle for Kabul that has claimed several hundred lives in the last week, has asked President Borhanoddin Rabbani to step down for the sake of peace.

Hekmatyar, a Pashtun, has suggested the formation of an interim government after Rabbani's resignation comprising elements who would not participate in elections to be held six months later, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said.

The Hezb leader along with several influential Afghan mojahedin factions have rejected as "unrepresentative" a consultative shura or council that elected Rabbani for two years in December.

"A new arrangement is imperative for the maintenance of peace, security, integrity and solidarity of Afghanistan," Hekmatyar said in a statement released by ANA. He also called for an election commission to be appointed "with full authority" to conduct the polls. The commission would be empowered to determine the age and number of voters, delineation of constituencies and to screen candidates, he said.

Hekmatyar's plan is the latest in a series of proposals aimed at ending the bloody fighting around Kabul and continued instability eight months after the capital's takeover by a mojahedin government. [passage omitted]

Fighting Continues; Western Diplomats Leave Kabul

LD2801174593 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The exchange of heavy weapons' fire between Afghan Government forces and Hekmatyar's Islamic Party is continuing. Meanwhile the forces of that party have opened a new front in western Kabul against Sayyaf's Islamic Union Party [Hezb-e Ettehad-e Eslami], the government's ally.

According to reports from Voice and Vision [Iranian radio and tv] correspondents and IRNA, Afghan Government fighter aircraft bombed the positions of Hekmatyar's forces on several occasions in eastern and southern Kabul. Meanwhile the exchange of heavy weapons' fire between the conflicting sides continued last night and today. Dozens of rockets hit various districts of the Afghan capital. Currently, Kabul's hospitals are filled with the injured.

Also yesterday, a large warehouse belonging to the Red Crescent of Afghanistan was set ablaze. With the intensification of the fighting the situation in Kabul has become abnormal. Shops are closed and people are taking their belongings to safe regions.

In the ninth day of fighting between the Afghan Government and the rebels, all Western diplomats have left the city. Only the 20-member representative delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran has remained in its embassy. The ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Kabul, emphasizing that the resources wasted during these clashes should be used to rebuild the country. He said: We welcome any step that will lead to negotiations between the conflicting sides.

Rocket Attacks on Kabul

LD2801153493 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] The Islamic State forces today shelled and bombed today the agitating forces' rocket positions. A responsible Defense Ministry sources told a BAKHTAR military correspondent that the forces of Golboddin attempted yesterday to launch an attack on Bodkhak, but that this attack was countered by the Islamic military forces, and that heavy losses were imposed on the enemy.

In the southern region of the city the Islamic forces heavily bombed enemy rocket and artillery positions on Khairabad Hill, whereby the enemy's heavy weapon positions suffered heavy losses. The enemy was forced to retreat south. The Defense Ministry source added that the enemy has lost its morale and that profound differences have erupted among their ranks.

As a result of the firing of rockets at Kabul City by the agitating forces of Golboddin, a number of our innocent compatriots have been martyred and others injured. The rockets fired by the Golboddin agitating forces killed 15 Muslim citizens of Kabul and a number were injured. The BAKHTAR correspondent, quoting a security source, reports that since yesterday evening around 80 rockets have been fired at Kabul city by the agitating forces from the southern direction. These rockets mostly hit residential regions, government offices, mosques, and holy places. The rockets hit the 12th, 10th, 3d, 7th, 9th, and 11th wards, killing 15 Muslim citizens and injuring 42 others.

As a result of the recent rocket attack the Shashdarak mosque and the Islamia Central mosque were extensively damaged. Some rockets hit [words indistinct], residential quarters of foreign diplomats, and some government offices, causing extensive damage.

'Stalemate' for Regime Forces, Rebels in Kabul

BK2801134493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1255 GMT 28 Jan 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Jan 28 (AFP)—On the 10th consecutive day of fighting between Afghan Government forces and rebel faction mojahedin Thursday, stalemate prevailed in south Kabul, where both sides resorted to heavy artillery shelling.

The government counter-attack against hardliner Golboddin Hekmatyar's Pashtun Hezb-e Eslami faction was mired at a crossroads about a kilometre (1,100 yards) from the Chelsitoon palace which the Hezb captured a week ago.

While Defence Ministry tanks were still in place, government infantry were dispersed amid the surrounding houses, not daring to venture on to the main street because the Hezb control the strategic peak of adjacent Chelsitoon mountain.

"Where are you going? Don't use this street. Hezb captured two hilltops yesterday and are shooting down on us," a frontline commander advised AFP.

One army post had been completely deserted; the foxholes were empty of defenders and the barracks left in disarray, with live ammunition, including hand-grenades, strewn around the room.

Some of the government army troops showed obvious signs of battle-fatigue, and had resorted to smoking drugs to bolster their confidence.

"Don't think we take hashish for pleasure. I lost both my wife and a child in a rocket bombardment and we are not ready to fight unless we have this to sustain us," murmured an elderly soldier puffing on his water-pipe.

As he coughed his way to intoxication, several incoming rockets crashed into the main street to the rear, narrowly missing a command post manned by the frontline commander, sending up a maelstrom of dust and tattooing the mud walls with a spray of shrapnel.

Nearby was a boy of about 10, a surviving son of the elderly soldier. "He knows how to use a Kalashnikov," said the father proudly.

The boy had no choice but to stay with his father. Hardly any civilians remained in Chelsitoon to brave the incessant artillery bombardment and small-arms fire.

From the Defence Ministry operations headquarters in northern Kabul, official spokesman General Yunus Qanooni said the government had captured Chelsitoon Palace from Hezb but that the area was under severe bombardment.

He said the Defence Ministry had no need of reinforcements, even though many independent mojahedin commanders had offered their assistance to the government.

Qanooni said the government's main goal was to eliminate all the heavy weapons bases which Hezb was using to bombard the capital.

"Our duty is to stop the bombardment of Kabul at any price," he said.

Locals reported only around 10-15 rockets falling on Kabul Thursday, but government rocket batteries in the capital fired many salvoes against the Hezb.

Qanooni said there would be no ceasefire because the rebels had not honoured three previous such agreements.

But he added that if Hekmatyar were removed as head of Hezb-e Eslami the government would review its stand against the rebels.

"Our emnity is not against Hezb-e Eslami in general, but against Hekmatyar in person, because we consider him the main reason for all our troubles," he said.

Meanwhile the few civilians that remained in Chelsitoon were vociferous in their denunciation of the mojahedin faction leadership that had brought nothing but calamity to their lives since the April 1992 victory over the communist regime.

"Why doesn't the United Nations evacuate the city and then these mojahedin can fight face to face. Let them prove their manhood and bravery without killing innocent people," shouted a white-bearded man.

"We are being murdered. Some of our dead we collected were just small pieces of meat. Can you believe that?" he said.

* Afghan Uzbeks Reportedly Open Pakistan Offices

93P40097A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jan 93 p 8

[Report by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan]

[Excerpts] Peshawar—Information sources in Peshawar said yesterday to AL-HAYAH that officials in the Uzbek militias led by former Afghan General Abdol Rashid Dostam have begun to open representational offices in the major Pakistani cities, but that the activities of these offices remain secret. This information comes at a time when Dostam has threatened to overthrow the regime of Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani if it does not officially recognize the National Movement, the military wing of the militias, and permit them to join in the government by giving them ministerial portfolios. [passage omitted]

AL-HAYAH has learned that Abdol Ali Mazari—head of the Shiite Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami, which is loyal to Tehran and opposes Rabbani—placed a precondition on

talks with the latter, which is that he resign from the regime in favor of the mojahedin Supervisory Council. [Rabbani] replied that this council had been dissolved after the formation of the Council of Settlement and Solution (Shura) which chose Rabbani as president.

In spite of the insistence of Rabbani's foes on denying the existence of any contacts between them, it appears that coordination among Dostam, Hekmatyar and those loyal to Iran is at its height. At a time when the Hezb-e Eslami forces are mobilizing in the suburbs of Kabul side by side with the Uzbek militias, Dostam is conducting a political and propaganda war against the Afghan regime with the object of getting his movement recognized and participating in the government.

At a time when Pakistan has begun to ask the mojahedin parties to move their offices into Afghanistan, the militias are moving to play a political role even inside Pakistani territory. Dostam asked the Pakistani Government to permit him to open offices on their territory during a secret visit to Islamabad last year. A source in Pakistan said that some militia officials have been seen in Peshawar, and their official spokesman Sirat Taleqani has been traveling between Peshawar and Mazar-e Sharif, Dostam's capital.

Former King Proposes Plan To End War

BK2801172993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1619 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 28 (AFP)—Afghanistan's former king Zahir Shah, in exile in Rome, has broken months of silence to propose a plan to end his country's civil war and set up a government in Kabul in cooperation with the United Nations.

The former king proposed establishing, with the help of the United Nations, a committee of influential Afghans responsible for setting up a "Loya Jirga" or grand assembly.

The Loya Jirga is to choose a head of state and ratify the nominations of a provisional government charged with preparing a new constitution and acting as a transitional authority before UN supervised legislative elections.

The objective of the plan is the formation of a new government "acceptable to the majority of the population and credible in the eyes of the international community."

This is the first time since the fall of the communist government in April that the former king, who ruled from 1933 to 1973, has proposed a plan to end the fighting between rival mojahedin groups.

"The events in the past eight months have clearly demonstrated the total lack of consideration for our national interest," the king said. "A selfish struggle for political power continues and foreign interferences prevail."

The 78-year-old king has lived in exile since being ousted in 1973 by his cousin General Mohamed Daoud, who installed a republic.

Rabbani Meeting With Iran, Pakistan Envoys Noted

BK2801131193 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Iran has asked the Afghan Government and rival groups to hold talks to end their fighting. During his meeting with President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul, Iranian Ambassador Najafi cautioned that continuous fighting would not be beneficial to any side. President Rabbani also met with Pakistani ambassador Amir Usman.

Meanwhile, fighting flared up in the southwest of Kabul city during which Afghanistan's air force and artillery resorted to heavy shelling on opposition forces. Earlier, the opposition launched rocket attacks on the city, resulting in heavy loss of life.

Bangladesh

Rahman on UN, U.S. Talks, Burmese Refugees

BK2801164493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman returned home today from a week-long visit to the United States. During his visit, the foreign minister had talks at the United Nations on the Rohingya refugee issue and bilateral discussions at Washington with the new U.S. Administration.

Talking to the newsmen at the airport, he said his talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali went on very well. The secretary general has assured all possible help of the world body for an early repatriation of all refugees from Bangladesh, he added. Mr. Rahman said Mr. Ghali was appreciative of the role Bangladesh is playing to repatriate the refugees and also commended Dhaka for its participation in the peacekeeping operations in the trouble spots in the world. He said the UN secretary general will visit Bangladesh at his earliest opportunity. The UN commissioner for refugees, Sadako Ogata, is also expected to visit Bangladesh in the near future.

He said he held talks with the concerned officials of the new U.S. Administration in Washington on bilateral matters and briefed them on Bangladesh's policies on different matters.

Minister Assesses Foreign Currency Reserves

BK1601091593 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Jan 93 p 7

[Excerpt] Bogra, Jan. 10: Finance Minister Saifur Rahman has said the country is in a comfortable position with 800 crore Taka foreign currency, 30 per cent more

export, 12 per cent in remittance earning, and 19 per cent import compared to corresponding period of last fiscal year, reports Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha.

Entrepreneurs are needed to come with commitment and zeal to invest having right attitude to compete in a free market economy, he said, adding that the Government is open to provide all help to the extent possible based on social justice and rationality.

The Finance Minister was addressing the members of Bogra Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI) at the Chamber Bhaban on Friday night.

State Minister for Finance, Mujibor Rahman and State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, Barrister Aminul Huq were the special guests. Presided over by BCCI President Taher Uddin Chowdhury, the meeting was addressed by Helaluzzaman Talukder MP [member of parliament], G. M. Siraj MP and representatives of BCCI. The BCCI members vindicated [as published] various problems related to their respective sectors and subsectors.

Mr. Saifur Rahman said as per report of International Monetory Fund, (IMF) our inflation is only three per cent and balance of payment is three per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). He said the present Government through policy and program reforms in macro economic sector has paved the way for micro economic development.

He said investible fund are adequate, banks reduced lending rates, floating new programs for attracting entrepreneurs and government will make available a fund of Taka 100 crore to provide for revitalizing nonperforming industries which the banks will not be able to fund, but have potential to finance. Of course, such units will have to have, the recommendations of Board of Investment (BOI) for availing the facilities, he added.

Turning to the default bank loan, the Finance Minister said, Taka 9000 crore are stuck up in the hand of defaulters of which Taka 450 crore are in jute sector alone. He said, this is the burden had to be shouldered as legacy from last autocratic maladministration and mismanagement. These money belong to the people, the depositors and not to banks and banks cannot allow public money to be plundered by some vested coteries, he pointed out. For potential, sincere and committed entrepreneurs investible fund will not be a problem, he added.

Replying to the queries of BCCI members, Mr. Saifur Rahman said Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Fund has been mobilized, tender has been floated, implementation works will start within this year. He said the present BNP Government will not expend public fund extravagantly. It is committed to its voters to properly utilize the scarce resources for deriving maximum benefit to the nation. He called upon the entrepreneurs both in industry and business to be up and doing commensurate with Government spirit and policies and help attain economic prosperity, self-respecting self-reliance. In a unipolar economic world of recession we will have to endeavor hard to address our own problems gradually, he said.

Mr. Mujibor Rahman said, Government has been trying its best to provide reasonable cushion to business community so that the national economy could be boosted while entrepreneurs are to exhibit their worth.

Mr. Aminul Huq said discipline, law and order, and rule of law are sine qua non for augmenting development, sustain democracy and establishing peace. He called upon the business community to be conscious of their own duties and Government will protect their interests.

Earlier, Finance Minister, State Minister for Finance, State Minister for Law, local MP G.M. Siraj—have visited Tbengmara Mohila Sabuz Sangha (TMSS), a voluntary social organisation, spread over Bogra, Rajshahi, Gaibandha. The Ministers went round different sections of tbe activities done by TMSS. TMSS have 28,000 members, all distressed women in 300 villages in three districts under Rajsbahi Division. [passage omitted]

India

Further Reportage on Visit of Russia's Yeltsin

Sharma Hosts Banquet for Yeltsin

BK2901040993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] India and Russia have expressed confidence that joint efforts by the two countries can be a reliable guarantee for political and economic stability in Asia. The two countries also resolved to work for the creation of a new global order to eliminate poverty, cross border terrorism, and drug trafficking among others.

Speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, in New Delhi last night the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said the new Indo-Russian agreement will lay a firm foundation for better bilateral relations. He expressed happiness at the continued interest of the Russian Government in the nonaligned movement and said the nonaligned foreign policy is more relevant now than ever before.

In his reply, the Russian president said relations with India are a priority area of his country's foreign policy. Mr. Boris Yeltsin said Russia's ties with other countries will not prejudice its cooperation with India.

Yesterday, India and Russia took a major initiative to clear all irritants in their relations including the rupee-ruble exchange rate issue. The visiting president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, assured the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, that Russia will fulfill all its commitments including supply of defense spares, and cryogenic rocket engines for space program. The two countries also

signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation, and several other agreements for strengthening ties in a number of fields. President Yeltsin fully supported the stand that Kashmir is an integral part of India and said that Russia will continue to support India's unity and territorial integrity.

The visiting Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, will address members of parliament and other eminent citizens in the central hall of parliament today. The meeting has been organized jointly by the Indian parliamentary group and India International Center. The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, will welcome Mr. Yeltsin and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, will also address the gathering. Mr. Yeltsin will later meet a delegation of Congress-I leaders. Before his departure in the afternoon today, the Russian president will address a joint press conference along with the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao. The prime minister will be hosting lunch in honor of the visiting Russian president.

The Russian president's wife, Mrs. Naina Yeltsina, yesterday visited the crafts mela [fair] in New Delhi and showed keen interest in the handicrafts. She also visited the lotus temple.

Yeltsin's Speech to Parliament Noted

BK2901090093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] The Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, has ruled out any military or technical aid to Pakistan. Addressing members of Parliament and eminent citizens in the Central Hall of Parliament in New Delhi today, he declared firm support for India's stand on the Kashmir issue. Amid repeated cheers in his 50-minute speech, the Russian president made it clear that the friendship and cooperation treaty signed by India and Russia yesterday is not directed against any third country but aims at protecting India's sovereignty, unity, and integrity. He was emphatic about Russia's support to New Delhi in its bid to normalize and improve relations with China and Pakistan.

Speaking on several issues confronting the world and the region, Mr. Yeltsin said there is no alternative to the ongoing economic reforms in many countries of the world. He said in another 20 years, the superpower countries will be determined not by the number of strategic weapons they possess but by the prospects of their people. Denying any Western tilt, Mr. Yeltsin said mutual trust and friendship between the big powers is essential for stability in the world. He said for this reason his country had taken steps to normalize relations with China despite their differences in the past 35 years.

Mr. Yeltsin deplored violence over religious differences and called for maintaining communal peace in India. Referring to similar violence in his country, he said violence cannot be destroyed by violence and only compromise will lay the foundation of security and prosperity. Speaking of the age-old ties between India and Russia, Mr. Yeltsin said the new Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation is in keeping with the changing times.

He said Russia is sympathetic to positive changes in the relationship between India and China. He said Russia also looks forward to normalization between India and Pakistan and will welcome any step in this direction. Mr. Yeltsin sought New Delhi's contribution to restoration of peace in Afghanistan. Mr. Yeltsin hoped that the decline in the economic relations between India and Russia in the past few years will be overcome.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, who also addressed the gathering, said that he looks forward to the consolidation of Russian democracy and tapping of rich resources in that country for speedier growth.

Earier, the Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Shiv Raj Patil, welcomed Mr. Yeltsin and the president of the India-International Center, Dr. Karan Singh, thanked the distinguished visiting dignitary.

Addressing a news conference later, Mr. Boris Yeltsin proposed the setting up of a center on the line of Pan-European Center to resolve conflicts, like the one between India and Pakistan, in the Asia-Pacific region. The Russian president said his country will contribute to the setting up of such a center. Mr. Yeltsin said Russia and India today stand close to each other as never before and the new phase which has been started with his visit is without any political hypocrisy. Answering a volley of questions, he touched on Russia's new foreign policy priorities, its stand on Yugoslavia, Indo-Russian trade, the new friendship and cooperation treaty, and supply of cryogenic rocket engine and oil to India. He said Russia is a Euro-Asian power spread over 17 million square kilometers and its size alone dictates it to keep a balance between the East and the West in its foreign policy. But, in a new shift of priority, Russia wants to develop a purposeful Asian policy in which China and India will have due importance. These two countries, he added, will not only shape the destiny of Asia but of the world at large. India, he said, holds the best chance for peace in Asia and the Pacific region. Russia and India have huge resources which are complementary in nature. What Russia lacks, India has, and what India lacks, Russia has. Mr. Yeltsin said he favored a broad involvement of the Russian private capital and investment with India. He said India has developed its science and technology enormously and in these areas also, Russian cooperation would increase.

Making a statement in the press conference, Mr. Narasimha Rao said Mr. Yeltsin's visit, though very short, has been very significant and meaningful, covering a wide range of common and global concerns. He said there has been convergence of views on many matters and the Indo-Russian relations have become more flexible and dynamic as a result of his visit. He said the dates

for his visit to Russia will be decided at the diplomatic level. He invited Mr. Yeltsin to make another visit to India at the earliest.

Yeltsin on Defense Spares, Exchange Rate

BK2901112693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0930 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The Russian President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, says the rupee-ruble exchange rate issue has been sorted out with India. He was addressing the joint meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi today. Mr. Yeltsin said a three-way formula has been evolved with New Delhi for supply of defense spare parts.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, called on the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, in New Delhi today. Later, the two leaders along with their delegation had talks on wide-ranging bilateral matters.

Mr. Yeltsin also met the representatives of the Indian trade and industry. [passage omitted]

Pacts Signed With Russia

BK2801163893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Excerpts] India and Russia today took a major initiative to clear all irritants in their relations, including the rupee-ruble exchange rate issue. The visiting President Boris Yeltsin categorically assured the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, that Russia will fulfill all its commitments, including supply of defense spares and cryogenic rocket engines for space programs. The two countries signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation and several other agreements for strengthening ties in a number of fields. [passage omitted]

In the area of defense supply, particularly spare parts, President Yeltsin made three proposals for ensuring smoother supplies to India. The proposals are improving the functioning of Russian enterprises involved in manufacture of spares, setting up of joint ventures, and transfer of technology to India. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, welcomed the proposals and said that all the three proposals will be tried out.

President Yeltsin fully supported India's stand that Kashmir is an integral part of India and expressed that Russia will continue to support India's unity and territorial integrity.

The two leaders also discussed the dangers posed by fundamentalists which has led to violence and terrorism in different parts of the world. Mr. Narsimha Rao spoke about the threat by cross-border, state-sponsored terrorism and President Yeltsin voiced his country's opposition to terrorism and secessionism. Both also shared the domestic situation, particularly in the light of economic reform programs undertaken by them. The two leaders agreed that the programs will further strengthen the economic relations between India and Russia. [passage omitted]

The agreements signed today include cooperation in science and technology, culture, defense, information, trade, and other areas. The two sides also signed an accord for combatting illegal transit in narcotic substances.

The visiting Russian minister of foreign economic relations, Mr. (S.G. Vladiyev) [name, title as heard] and the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, discussed the possibility of expanding trade and economic cooperation between the two countries at a meeting in New Delhi today. They signed four agreements on the utilization of technical credit, modality for transit trade, repayment of debt, and modality on repayment of equipment and machinery procured from the erstwhile Soviet Union.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1550 GMT on 28 January carries a similar report, which adds the following: "The Russian and Indian leaders signed a 20-year pact to replace the 1971 treaty of friendship and cooperation between India and the Soviet Union. The new treaty bars them from acts which would affect their security but omits a key clause on mutual defense in case of outside aggression."

"Yeltsin announced the resolution of the [Russia-India] debt dispute following nearly two hours of talks with Rao."

"Yeltsin did not provide details of the agreement, but in an interview with the TASS News Agency here he called it a 'compromise.'

"An Indian spokesman said the accord effectively reduces the amount India owes to Russia by one-third, to 8.4 billion dollars, and extends the repayment period."

"Yeltsin dismissed U.S. complaints over a contract to supply India with 200 million dollars worth of rocket technology, including three cryogenic rocket engines. 'No country, wherever they are, will stop us. We will deliver those motors,' he told a group of Indian businessmen.

"India's Space Research Organization has signed a contract with the Russian firm Glavkosmos for the supply of the engines by 1995, and the transfer of the technology to build them by 1997. The United States has strongly objected to the military implications of the deal and slapped sanctions.

"'In the area of space cooperation Yeltsin categorically stated that when two countries such as Russia and India had an agreement, neither side would withdraw from the agreement at third party intervention,' the Indian spokesman said.

"Yeltsin set trade targets of 2.5 billion dollars this year and 3.5 billion dollars by 1994. Trade between India and

the Soviet Union totalled 5.5 billion dollars in 1990 but with Russia it fell to just 1.4 billion dollars last year.

"The Russian leader also further distanced himself from the policies of his predecessors in the Kremlin, saying that in the past Moscow used to play its 'Indian card' against 'Chinese hegemonism.' 'But we will not use India for political intrigues,' he said."

Commentary on Ties With Russia

BK2901052593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Commentary by S.K. Singh, former foreign secretary]

[Text] In less than 20 hours after President Yeltsin's arrival in New Delhi, he and his team have finalized and signed 10 agreements. These include a revised treaty of friendship and cooperation and also agreements and memorandum of understanding in the fields of defense supplies, internal security, prevention of illegal narcotics trade, culture, information, science and technology, bilateral economic cooperation, and trade.

During the Khurshchev, Brezhnev, and Gorbachev eras, a lot of unwritten traditions of cooperation and understanding had developed between India and the Soviet Union. Now the Soviet Union is no more and the leader of the successor state—the Russian Federation—has chosen, after long discussion and consideration, to maintain and strengthen all these understandings. The two sides have also chosen to give them greater precision by writing these down. President Yeltsin is accompanied by all his important and principal ministers covering the areas in which India-Russian bilateral relations are being strengthened. At its peak the India-Soviet trade used to be of a volume of $5.5 billion. In 1990, which was the first troubled economic year of the Soviet Union's transition toward becoming the Russian Federation, it came down to $4.2 billion. This year it has climbed down further to a paltry $1.5 billion. The Russian and Indian leaders appear determined to ensure that once again their bilateral economic and trade exchanges become healthy and vigorous. Central to this exercise has been the removal of all differences and ambiguities about the debt issue, the rupee-ruble parity, and the working of the technical credits which they have traditionally provided each other.

The most major achievement of this has been the settlement of all these complex problems. This visit was preceded by a two-year long internal and introverted debate in both countries about how much or how little they need each other in the new global and political scenario. All the agreements signed yesterday indicate that the two leaderships after mature consideration and soul searching have come to the determination that their mutual need for each other's support and intimate cooperation is as great as in the past. The Russian Federation would, perhaps, not wish to parade the ideological and sentimental aspects of the old relationship as was being done by the leaders of the Soviet Union.

The question of defense supplies and spares too seems to have been sorted out. Russia will supply these out of its own inventory, and in respect of the items that have gone out of the production in that country, they will help India to set up on its soil production facilities.

President Yeltsin has indicated that he will not take up at the highest level issues like the Nonproliferation Treaty. Also, that in their handling in international forums of questions like Kashmir, Russia will be mindful of India's interests and sensitivities. All this is welcomed as part of the new evolving relationship between our two countries. It showed that Russia understands the importance of both continuity and change in this important bilateral relationship.

Commentary Views Impact of John Major's Visit

BK2901115093 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Commentary by M.V. Kamath]

[Text] The visit of the British prime minister, Mr. John Major, to India surely marks the beginning of a refreshingly new era in Indo-British relations. Hitherto Britain was experiencing a three-front pull. One was the Cold War pull which placed it squarely in the ranks of America's allies, albeit in a second position. The other was the pull of the common market, which it could not ignore for economic and other obvious reasons. Increasingly, Britain was getting away from the Commonwealth where it had a legitimate role to play, but which it seemed unable or unwilling to play effectively. The breakup of the Soviet Union relieved Britain of the need to play second fiddle to the United States. Equally, Britain is realizing that there is a price to pay for blindly accepting Washington's lead in international affairs. As the Gulf war has shown so glaringly, Britain has little elbow room to stake out an independent policy of its own and that must be galling to the British Foreign Office, so conscious of its past traditions and glory. Britain's ability to play a major role in the European Economic Community unhappily is limited, a fact that London realizes only too well. It has to reckon with French and German aspirations. British industrial strength is not so overwhelming that Britain can give and even fight with Europeans on their own grounds in the common market. Britain's withdrawal from the exchange rate mechanism clearly is an indication that it is playing on a weak wicket.

It is in this context that India acquires new importance for Britain. The country, most certainly, can do with greater access to the Indian market. Technically, the entire European market is available to it. But, in a sense, it has to compete with Germany, the United States, and even Japan and that it is not going to be easy at the best of times. However, Britain is considered to have an edge

in such areas as arms, industry, chemical technology, and financial services, and in certain areas of consumer goods. India provides an excellent outlet for British goods in these areas of trade. Last month, under the British presidency, India and the European Community initialed a new cooperation agreement. This is expected to open the way for increased cooperation in areas as diverse as trade, investment, development, environment, agriculture, science and technology, energy, telecommunications, and drug abuse.

During his visit to Bombay on Wednesday, the British premier expressed the hope that when the agreement is signed, it will be accompanied by a joint statement on political dialogue. This second document enshrines arrangements for the Indian and European governments to work together closely on a wide range of political and other issues. British investment in India is estimated at about 2 billion pounds, significantly larger than that of any other country. At least 250 British companies are well established in India with an important stake in the nation's economy. There are also many more tie-ups involving the transfer of technology and know-how. The open British market will provide ample opportunities for India's increasingly competitive exporters, many of them from Bombay and Western India. To quote Mr. John Major, the Land of the Tiger can become an economic tiger herself. She starts with great advantageous and a new domestic market, a reserve of trained and experienced manpower, a thriving private sector and an established entrepreneurial, traditional, and great natural talent, most of the necessary financial institutions already in place, and an exuberant democracy, unquote.

Perhaps, the British premier was right. Britain could not possibly ask for more. As far as India is concerned, Britain would be an excellent partner, and to use a familiar phrase, a country of choice. In many ways than one, Britain and India seem to be made for each other as both march toward the 21st century. Time and circumstances seem to have brought the two nations together. Both Britain's and India's domestic and international interests coincide and there was no reason why they should not make the most of such fortuitous circumstances. This will explain why Mr. Major had brought a top-notch business team with him. Britain obviously means business in more ways than one. So should India.

Iranian Envoy Talks With Prime Minister Rao

LD2801202893 Tehran IRNA in English 1848 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 28, IRNA—The Iranian Ambassador to India, Shaykh-'Attar, met the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao today, and discussed with him bilateral relations between Iran and India. He also discussed the latest happenings in India with Rao.

Shaykh-'Attar, in the meeting informed Rao about the latest improvements in economic relations between the two countries. He also conveyed the concern of the Iranian government regarding the action of the Fascist outfits against Indian Muslims as also Iranians residing in Bombay.

The ambassador said Iran would support the move by Indian government to check violence.

Rao thanked Shaykh-'Attar for the Iranian stand and said that subsequent to the declaration by the Supreme Court of the Babri Mosque case pending before it, he would do his best to bring the situation back to normal.

Rao said he would safeguard the rights of the country's more than 180 million Muslims and would prevent the acts of Fascist outfits against them.

The Indian prime minister also emphasised the role of both countries to improve bilateral relations.

Following the shocking demolition of the Babri Mosque at Faizabad by Hindu vandals on December 6 last and the subsequent outburst of violence against Muslims throughout the country, Rao quickly promised to rebuild the 16th century mosque.

However, he has yet to take practical steps in this regard, despite Iran's offer within the framework of bilateral cooperation to help rebuild the mosque.

Orissa Governor Resigns 28 Jan

BK2901085493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 29 Jan 93

[Text] The Orissa governor, Mr. Yagya Dutt Sharma, has resigned. PTI, quoting official sources in Bhubaneswar, said that Mr. Sharma faxed his resignation to the president yesterday.

Strategy Adopted To Reduce Fiscal Deficit

BK2701152593 Delhi PATRIOT in English 18 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] The government expects its interest payments alone to go up by a staggering Rs [rupees] 6,000 crore next year, making its task of reducing the fiscal deficit further through the 1993-94 budget that much more difficult, reports UNI [UNITED NEWS OF INDIA].

As the Finance Minister moves into the final phase of drawing up the budget, to be presented next month, the government is working on a two-pronged strategy to reduce the fiscal deficit to about four per cent of GDP in 1993-94, down from the five per cent envisaged for the current year.

This involves a combination of revenue measures and pruning of the non-interest components of non-Plan expenditure to achieve a lower fiscal deficit as well as reduced revenue deficit.

The Finance Ministry is convinced that, in the 1993-94 budget, the fiscal deficit will have to be brought down

further as part of the process of macroeconomic stabilisation and to bring inflation down to manageable levels.

Despite the setbacks caused by the Ayodhya crisis and its fallout, the government has shown signs of its determination to push ahead with the process of economic reforms, as witnessed by the recent amendments to the FERA [Foreign Exchange Regulation Act] through an ordinance.

There has also been some success on the prices front, with the inflation rate down to 7.12 per cent, the lowest level in a long time.

Given the need to curb the fiscal deficit and keep the commitment to bring down customs duties to international levels, the budget might raise and rationalise central excise duties to ensure that revenue collections remain buoyant.

The government has also promised to revamp the corporation tax structure in line with the Chelliah Committee's recommendations. Political compulsions might prompt the government to hike the personal income tax exemption limit marginally from the present level of Rs 28,000.

Finance Minister Manmohan Singh has already completed the annual pre-budget discussions with agriculturists, industrialists, economists, trade unionists and representatives of small scale industry, for the first time ever; wide-ranging consultations were also held with leading scientists and technologists.

Meanwhile, the government recognises that even in the current year if the fiscal deficit is to be contained at the budgeted level of Rs 34,400 crore, maximum expenditure restraint would be needed the few remaining months.

Official sources said there was considerable pressure on the expenditure side due to the weak financial position of some of the special category states as well as due to the recent floods and drought in Bihar, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, among other states.

The interest expenditure this year will also be higher as the government is gradually moving towards market-related rates of borrowings, they said.

New instruments, such as 364-day treasury bills, have been introduced and auctions of five, six, and 10 year securities have been held.

The 1992-93 budget estimate of Rs 32,000 crore for interest payments was Rs 4750 crore more than the previous year's figure; much of this is on borrowings made in the past.

The Finance Ministry is confident that expenditure on fertiliser subsidy, which was spinning out of control, will come down to a reasonable level in 1993-94.

On the recommendations of the Joint Parliament Committee on fertiliser pricing, the government had, in August 1992, reduced urea prices by 10 per cent and brought back certain low analysis nitrogenous fertilisers under the price control-subsidy regime. Phosphatic and potassic fertilisers were decontrolled. These steps are expected to show some results next year.

This year, the Centre provided Rs 340 crore to the State governments for subsidy to farmers to cushion the impact of the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers.

Further, Rs 200 crore was released as the first installment to the states to begin implementation of new schemes relating to infrastructure creation and other schemes in the agricultural sector.

The government expects the increase in petroleum prices announced in September to eliminate the projected deficit in the Oil Coordination Committee (OCC) pool account. This will avoid any pressure on the government budget, the sources said.

Tax revenues and cross collections till November-end have been buoyant and the government was hopeful of exceeding the budget estimates of Rs 76,524 crore by around Rs 3500 crore.

But the Ayodhya events have raised some doubts on this score, which have been further accentuated by the recent spell of violence in Bombay, the commercial nerve centre of the country.

The violence after December 6 in different states was expected to adversely affect tax collections for that month by about Rs 1000 crore. Most of this will be collected later while some would be outright losses resulting from lost production.

It is too early to predict the effects of the latest bout of riots in Bombay on the tax collections.

All the same the indications were that the government had managed to achieve the December-end target of limiting the fiscal deficit to Rs 25,300 crore. The average increase in the net RBI [Reserve Bank of India] credit to the Central Government was also on target at around Rs 6500 crore, below the December-end goal of Rs 7000 crore.

The 1992-93 budget had estimated collections of Rs 25,212 crore from customs, Rs 32,081 crore from Central Excise, and Rs 15,995 crore from income tax (including corporation tax).

1992-93 Defense Export Target 'Likely To Be Achieved'

BK1601131393 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Dec 93 p 13

[Text] NEW DELHI, Dec. 27 —India's defence equipment export target of Rs [rupees] 120 crore for 1992-93 is likely to be achieved as against the export of Rs 101 crore last year.

Reviewing the year's achievements of the Army, Air Force and Navy, the defence production laboratories and the role of the three services in noncombat role, relief and rescue in time of natural calamities or man-made disasters, the Defence Ministry observed 1993 [as published] was a very "tough year" for the test for alertness, devotion to duty and courage.

All the three services started recruiting and training women in officer cadres. Till now, women were employed only in medical and nursing cadres.

The Indian Air Force celebrated on Dec. 8 its diamond jubilee. A new sixth command—Army Training Command—was added to the Army to centrally coordinate the training in the services.

India participated in Farnborough air show in the United Kingdom, Asian Aerospace exhibition in Singapore and Defence Services Asia exhibition in Malaysia to explore world markets for Indian defence products.

The year witnessed a number of trials of the surface-to-surface missile 'Prithvi' whose production along with the short reaction surface-to-air missile 'Trisul' is to start in 1993, after user trials.

The pilotless target aircraft 'Lakshya' is a re-usable sub-sonic pilotless aircraft for air-to-air and surface-to-air missile and gun-firing practice. Its user trials are planned in 1993.

The technology demonstrator 'Agni' was test-fired for the second time this year. It met some mission objectives. However, it showed that some sub-systems needed further improvement.

The medium battle tank (MBT) 'Arjun' project is progressing as per schedule. More pre-production tanks are being built and sent for trials. With completion of successful trials, the tank is likely to be ready for induction into the service next year.

The Hindustan Aeronautic Limited [HAL] rolled out its first Advanced Light Helicopter, fully designed and developed indigenously. This multi-role machine is likely to find diverse uses with the three services, other security forces and for civic services like emergency medical relief, cargo transport and rescue operations. The HAL also handed over to the Air Force the 100th MiG-27 produced by it.

INS Rajali, the Naval Air station became operational. Located at Arakonam in Tamil Nadu, it has made long range surveillance possible for the Indian Navy. INS Shalki, India's first indigenously built submarine, was commissioned this year. It has been built by Mazagaon Dock in collaboration with HDW of Germany. Another submarine, Shankul, and a missile corvette, Vipul, were commissioned. Three other missile corvettes Kora, Vinesh and Vidyut were launched. The Coast Guard received its eighth and ninth offshore patrol vessels Varad and Varaha.

In the field of international cooperation, the year also marked a number of visits by the Defence Minister, the three Service Chiefs and senior officers to a number of countries. Several Foreign Ministers and civil and defence officers also visited India and held discussions on defence matters.

The visits included the Defence Minister's visits to Russia, Ukraine, the US, France, China and Singapore and visit to India by the Malaysian Defence Minister, US Senator Larry Pressler, US Assistant Secretary of Defence and Pakistan's Defence Secretary.

In particular, the Defence Minister's visit to Russia and Ukraine created better understanding which is likely to lead to stronger defence ties with these countries and to finalisation of credit arrangements for buying spares and equipment.

India and Pakistan held Defence Secretary-level talks on the Siachen issue and agreed to hold the next round of talks in Islamabad at an early date.

India held joint naval exercises with a number of countries including the United States, Australia, France and UK and Oman. An expedition, "INSV Samundra Bali Yatra" sailed for South-East Asian countries on a goodwill visit to commemorate the ancient maritime links between India and the South-East Asian region.

India sent her troops as part of United Nations peace keeping mission in Cambodia. The Indian Navy sent her three ships to Somalia with relief supplies as part of UN relief mission. Earlier, Lt.-Gen. [Lieutenant-General] Satish Nambiar of the Indian Army was made the Commander of the United Nations peace keeping force in Yugoslavia.

When rains lashed the Jammu region with the rivers ravaging large areas, the Army and Air Force quickly rescued the stranded and marooned people; provided relief to them, opened camps and transported people to safer places. The Army constructed a bridge in no time at Akhnoor where an age-old bridge had been washed away and border areas cut off from the rest of the country by gushing Chenab.

The most dramatic of rescue operations, undertaken by the Air Force and Army commandos took place when eight people stranded mid-air in a cable car in Parwanoo in Himachal Pradesh were air-lifted one by one.

Multi-Fuel Nuclear Reactor Development Viewed

BK2901150793 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 Jan 93 p 13

[Editorial: "Nuclear Laurels"]

[Text] The report that the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre [BARC] is designing a multi-fuel nuclear reactor for power generation, which will use plutonium and thorium-uranium fuels, comes on top of its recent achievement in loading thorium fuel for flattening the neutron flux in thermal nuclear reactors. Earlier BARC had also built a spent fuel reprocessing plant to extract plutonium from the used-up fuel bundles in thermal reactors as well as a fast breeder test reactor based on plutonium carbide fuel—technologies which are closely held by only four countries. While each of these achievements is a milestone in acquiring and demonstrating indigenous capabilities, the proposed multi-fuel reactor would be a unique development, which the BARC Director, Dr R. Chidambaram, has claimed as the first in the world because of its versatility in achieving different neutron fluxes in the same reactor and solving related technological and engineering problems. These capabilities are themselves the result of the vision of Dr Homi Bhabha who at BARC built up teams of first rate scientists in several scientific disciplines. The significant achievements of these teams underscore the futility of the efforts made by some nuclear-weapon states to deny India access to certain high-tech items like super computers.

India can therefore go to the next NPT [Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty] review conference as an equal and not as an inferior in nuclear technology. The BARC teams have developed parallel processors with matching computing capabilities which themselves are being upgraded to supercomputing levels. In the background of carping and often justified criticism that several other scientific establishments have not given adequate dividends on the investment in their manpower and equipment, what the Atomic Energy and Space Science establishments have demonstrated is the capability of Indian scientists, technologists and engineers given the right vision and motivation. The major drawback in the pursuit of science is the absence of this vision and mission and diffusing of research funds on a large number of projects, each getting only a subcritical amount. Several top Indian science managers like Dr C.N.R. Rao and Dr S.K. Joshi are justifiably worried over the steep cuts in allotments to science and technology. This situation could be remedied if planners and scientists come together to review research areas and ensure adequate funding of priority projects.

Iran

President, Indian Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD2801180193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jan 93

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Indian Agriculture Minister Balram Jakhar this evening. During the meeting the president welcomed the expansion of relations between the two countries of Iran and India and said: The two countries' relations can be expanded beyond their present level, and Iran and India with their ancient historical and cultural background are able to take further effective and serious steps toward closer and extensive cooperation.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the recent incidents in India and expressed hope that the Indian Government adopts wise measures toward the extremist Hindus who caused the recent incidents in India so that they regret their wrong doings and refrain from committing such actions in the future.

During the meeting in which Agriculture Minister Kalantari was also present, Balram Jakhar said imperialism is the common enemy of the third world and eastern countries. He said the aim of his country is to have closer ties with the third world and developing countries, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran, so as to completely break with dependency and to achieve self-sufficiency.

Syrian Vice President Seen as Possible Mediator

NC2801131593 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 5 Jan 93 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Khaddam Knows Full Well"]

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam is currently visiting the Islamic Republic of Iran at the head of a high-level delegation as a guest of our country.

The vice president is considered one of the Arab world's elite politicians. On his arrival in our country he said that Syria will strive to promote friendly and fraternal relations between Iran and the Arab world. He added that the two sides will discuss important Middle East issues in the course of their talks.

Some regional and Western news agencies have said that the Syrian vice president is visiting Tehran as a mediator between Iran and the Persian Gulf shaykhs and even between Iran and Egypt.

It appears from Khaddam's remarks that in view of Syria's familiarity with the principles of Iran's foreign policies and its cordial relations with Iran in the past, even if it does intend to mediate, it is moving with complete awareness of the situation.

First and foremost, the question arises: Why is it that a country like Syria, which is on the frontline of the anti-Zionist struggle, is interested in cordial relations with Iran while others are not?

It can also be gleaned from the remarks of this high-level Syrian official that the Arabs have realized the importance of relations with Iran and are also aware of the great regard our officials have for Syria.

Khaddam is a dynamic and well-known figure in the Arab world and as a politician he has realized that the shaykhs's fear of Iran is imaginary. At the same time, he realizes that in the course of the imposed war, Iran's warnings regarding Saddam to the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council were ridiculed but now they have been proven correct.

Khaddam also knows that today, those who are seeking cordial relations have in the past decade been campaigning to remove the word "Persian" from the well-known geographical term "Persian Gulf". He knows that if Iran had not maintained its categorical and popular stance in the Persian Gulf war and if it had succumbed to foreign instigation to settle old scores, just as the shaykhs did in the past, Baghdad would have transformed the region into an inferno.

If the shaykhs are unwitting and impotent, Khaddam can remind them how the deposed Shah treated the shaykhs on the basis of Western support and how different Iran's policy today is.

Therefore, in view of the decade of fraternal relations and religious solidarity between our two countries, we should value Syria's brotherly efforts on the condition that those who convey the message should do so personally and should listen to everything with their own ears.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is the largest, most powerful, and most populous country in the Persian Gulf region and its progeny exult in safeguarding its borders. This most powerful country of the region considers Syria its friend and values the efforts of the Syrian leaders.

Attacks on Iraq 'Signal' From U.S. Military

NC2801134093 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 25 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Back to U.S. Militarism?"]

[Text] A week before Bill Clinton went to the White House as American's 42nd president, the allied warplanes led by America, attacked Iraq. Later a barrage of some 40 U.S. cruise missiles hit a major industrial plant near Baghdad. The latter strike was neither coordinated with France or Britain nor was it within the framework of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The attacks came at a time when after 12 years of Republican rule a change was going to appear in the U.S. defense policy. Republican administration which favored more expenditure on the so-called "defense" structure of America was to be replaced by a Democrat president who in his election campaign had pledged to invest less on U.S. armed forces and spend more to develop the highly fragile U.S. economic infrastructure—namely improve American competitiveness in the international markets.

As a matter of fact it was Clinton's campaign promise that, unlike his predecessors, he will focus attempts on solving America's growing domestic and economic problems. These promises worked like a red signal to the U.S. brass hats who traditionally preferred Republicans over Democrats.

Washington's renewed air and missile raids against targets inside Iraq was part of a plan by America's military establishment to give a strong signal to the incoming president that although the cold war no longer exists and the threat of a so-called superpower confrontation is over, however, neither military expenditures nor the number of armed forces personnel should be reduced. As the only gendarme of the world, the U.S. troops and their military hardware are deemed necessary wherever the new world order is challenged, the military establishment claims. The targets will not only be aggressors such as Saddam Husayn, rather Americans can freely intervene in domestic affairs of any developing country. Examples of such interference can be seen in Panama and Somalia.

Now the question is how Clinton, who had been an anti-Vietnam war activist during his youth, can deal with the military establishment while pursuing his internal and foreign agenda.

Clinton Seen Using Sanctions To Pressure Opponents

NC2901075793 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 20 Jan 93 p 15

['Abdolreza Farhang-Kheradmand commentary: "Clinton and Future Policies"]

[Text] Today George Bush will hand over affairs to Clinton and thus, after 12 years, the Democrats will again assume power.

During his four years in the White House, Bush faced one of the most adventuresome eras in the Presidency of the United States. The signing of START I and START II on the reduction of nuclear arms and the organization of the Persian Gulf war were among Bush's most important achievements in the post Cold War era and after the disintegration of the East Bloc.

Nevertheless, America's domestic problems were among the most significant elements leading to his defeat in the 3 November 1992 election, especially as his rival promised social change and the country's economic rebirth.

Clinton's election victory was coupled with the message for Bush that with 30 million Americans living below the poverty line and unemployment rising daily, repeated military interventions in the world could not solve any of the problems of the poverty-stricken American public, even though the U.S. leadership sees these interventions as a source of political pride for the United States!

This is why the new tenant of the White House will never fall short when it comes to America's trade partners; he made promises and people have expectations. The 2

March deadline for a GATT [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade] agreement, which aims to eliminate subsidies on European agricultural goods, will help to determine America's policies.

Most of Clinton's efforts will aim to open new markets for American goods—in China, Japan, and Europe. It seems the new American leadership has concluded that relying on a powerful and interfering Army will push the country toward the same fate as the former Soviet Union, if this reliance is not backed by a strong economy that can overcome domestic problems. Clinton's creation of an Economic Security Council next to the National Security Council answers this need.

It can be seen that by the reduction of "interfering policies and the creation of world military crises," Clinton will use economic sanctions and political pressures against opponents to implement his programs within the framework of the new world order.

The Haiti experience and the handing over of power to civilians—achieved by economic sanctions—proves the efficacy of this method; this is what will make Clinton more hopeful and more confident about dealing with domestic problems.

The question remains: Can Clinton's policies solve the problems of a sick, poor, and violent America? The best answer to this question will be if Clinton renews his lease on the White House for another term.

Continuing Conflict in Iraq Will 'Scorch Iraqis'

NC2901100993 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 18 Jan 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Fireworks in Long Winter of Iraq"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

Four days and nights have passed since the air attack by the allies. Iraq remains perturbed. The Baghdad rulers are in a flurry of activity, holding press conferences that are more a narrative being recited to the Iraqi people than justification of their actions.

The crisis of the past two years, starting with the attack on Kuwait by Iraqi forces and the 40 days of attacks by the allies on Iraq, seems about to be rekindled.

It is not clear whether the crisis will remain confined to Iraq. After the air attacks on Iraq last Wednesday, the allies continue to target Iraq, while the United States, on the brink of a transfer of power in the White House, continues its overt threats.

In the three days that remain of Bush's presidential tenure, the possibility of a more extensive attack on Iraq has kept the analysts busy.

Although a crisis-ridden Iraq, which is embroiled in tension, can also assist Bill Clinton in his Middle East policies until there is stability in Israel, it cannot, in the long term, be stated with confidence that tension in Iraq will continue to benefit Washington. [passage omitted]

In the conflict of the past 24 hours, it would seem that an Iraqi plane was downed, while Baghdad also announced that it forced two allied warplanes to retreat. If the United States' fireworks continue into the Iraqi winter, they will scorch the Iraqis and drag the region deeper into tension. Will there be anything left of Iraq at the end of the winter or will the region again inhale the smoke from burning oil wells?

Butrus-Ghali Accused of Making UN 'Unilateral' Organization

NC2901094793 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 17 Jan 93 p 1

[Editorial: "The Dubious Role of Butrus-Ghali"]

[Excerpts] When events suggest the need for military intervention in Bosnia-Hercegovina to halt the horrifying annihilation of an oppressed nation, when there is Serb opposition to amicable plans and programs to end the war, and when bloodshed rules out any prospects, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali still insists that military intervention is unnecessary. There is no doubt this insistence is part of a calculated program. [passage omitted]

It is no secret that the Western powers are quite satisfied with the current trend of events in Bosnia-Hercegovina. They are quite complacent about the Serbs embarking on a massacre of the Muslims that will prevent the establishment of an Islamic government in the heart of Europe. This is why they support the Serbs in various ways.

Suspicion about the West's intentions increases daily and it has been forced to show some concurrence with the need for military intervention to end the Bosnian holocaust. If this trend continues to gain strength, it will pave the way for the practical implementation of such an intervention. [passage omitted]

It is now time to see whether Butrus-Ghali defends the rights of nations and independent governments or executes the superpowers' policies and intentions. The UN secretary general's performance indicates that the United Nations has become a unilateral instrument; unfortunately, the organization is in its worst position in four decades.

Egypt Accused of 'Contemptible Groveling'

NC2901071193 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Jan 93 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "The Cairo Regime—Loudspeaker of American Islam!"]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

The wave of malicious attacks by the Cairo regime savages against Muslims grows daily. These attacks occur so often that they are considered regular policy in Egypt and elicit no surprise. But what causes amazement is that, shortly, an international conference will be held in Cairo entitled: "Toward a United Islamic Ummah." This is a government-sponsored session to which officials from many countries have been invited.

The question here is: Why does the Cairo regime engage in actively slaughtering the Muslims, while convening sessions in the name of Islam? By hosting such a session, the Cairo regime pursues two objectives: First, it wishes to project the impression that it does not fear Islam and is even prepared to be the flag bearer of Islamic unity. Second, this is part of its efforts to spread "American-style" Islam for which the Cairo regime openly seeks to become the loudspeaker.

The wave of Islamism is engulfing the world with such speed and to such an extent that even those regimes that sense the danger feel they cannot enter into a multifaceted combat against Islam, so they resort to such tactics to project the impression that they have no fears about this.

This resorting to Islam by those who are involved in the killing and intimidation of Muslims is merely an illusory ploy. But it seems too farfetched to believe that the vigilant Egyptian Muslims and all the Muslim nations will be influenced and deceived by such humiliating propaganda. This is why the Cairo regime's efforts are already being considered abortive and why such preliminaries cannot mask the repulsive face of the anti-Islamic Cairo regime.

The growth of Islam is so mercurial that it makes its enemies react. In such circumstances, all the enemies of Islam appear to be reactive, but this cannot be a suitable recourse for their problems.

Even if the Cairo regime tries to attribute the strong wave of Islamism throughout Egypt to extraneous factors, the facts and figures prove that the Cairo regime does not have a domestic base among the masses of Egypt's combatant people. This is why the regime's current efforts cannot bear fruit.

As long as the mature Egyptian people bear the lashes of the brutal Cairo regime and complacently suffer torture and martyrdom for their crime of seeking Islam, the anti-Islamic Cairo regime will obviously appear lackluster and no one will believe its claims of being the flag bearer of Islamic unity.

The honorable Egyptian nation is vigilant enough to comprehend the depth of the catastrophe. The Egyptian nation senses, with all its being, that the very existence of the despicable Cairo regime is a source of humiliation for their country. This regime, with its contemptible groveling to the United States and Israel, has disgraced the entire Egyptian nation.

The Cairo regime, which is in the clutches of Israeli bondage, is a source of utter disdain; the people of Egypt will never forget this major catastrophe. Despite this, it wishes to portray itself as the flag bearer of American-style Islam. Egypt was confined within the boundaries of the Arab world and was assigned to motivate reactionary Arabs to embark on "collective deception." Today Washington feels that it can delegate new responsibility to Cairo in the Islamic world.

Perhaps there are some who consider Cairo to have carried out its initial assignment but can the Cairo regime carry out its next assignment?

The evidence shows that the massive wave of the Islamic uprising throughout the region has broadened the scope of the nation's vigilance and awareness such that the people will never be deceived by the anti-Islamic regimes; this is why the first mission of the Cairo regime also failed.

Reliable information indicates that some Israeli and American strategists have a common viewpoint on this and are certain that the fearful Arab regimes must be pitched against their own people so that combating Islam becomes "the first priority" of the Arab regimes' policies.

The new ministerial session of Arab countries to ratify a five- year plan to combat Islam in the region confirms this and shows that Washington and the Zionists feel defeated by the failure of the compromising Arab-Israeli talks. They have concluded that the real enemy of Zionism in the region is Islam, which they should combat whatever the cost.

Suppressing the Islamic movement and trying to spread American- style Islam are two sides of the same coin to be used to benefit Israel in the region.

Writer Questions Saudis Spending $17 Billion on Defense

NC2901082093 Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Jan 93 p 12

[Unattributed commentary: "Saudi Arabia's Military Budget Sounds Alarm Bell"]

[Excerpts] The trend to destabilize the Persian Gulf region continues, with the United States and the obsequious littoral states of the Persian Gulf region using new dimensions of conflict and contradiction and various means to sow discord. This comes to light via the international press and mass media. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia, one of the principal members of the Gulf Cooperation Council and of the 6+2 security arrangement [among GCC members plus Egypt and Syria], seeks to base the comprehensive regional peace plan on ordnance purchases, strengthening the military structure, boosting militarism in the region, and eliciting direct U.S. support.

Announcing his country's budget for 1993, Saudi King Fahd declared that a third of the $52.5 billion budget has been allocated to military expenditure. This allocation will be more than $17 billion, which exceeds the military budget of all the Persian Gulf countries and is 18 times the military budget of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the year 1372 [year beginning 21 March 1993].

Saudi Arabia's ordnance purchases include 13 launch pads for Patriot missiles, 861 antimissile Patriot missiles, and 72 XPS F-15's [preceding acronyms in English] from the Macdonnel Douglas company. [passage omitted]

The trend of the Saudi stance and its relations with the United States indicate that such armaments will not be used against Israel. The models and types of weapons being purchased are of lower technological quality than Israel's tools of offense and defense.

In addition, the traditional justifications—the "communist threat" and the Soviet Union—are no more and a large segment of Iraq's military and aggressive capability was destroyed in its attack on Kuwait. So a power vacuum has emerged in the Persian Gulf. Why, then, such a massive amount of ordnance purchases and expansion of militarism in the region?

Saudi Arabia's ordnance shopping goes on while the United States has approved resolutions to divulge all arms purchases without discrimination and while some analysts have called for a complete moratorium on arms sales to Middle East countries. More important is that the Western mass media and international organizations and diplomats continue their psychological warfare and threats against the strengthening of Iran's military structure.

Where is the justification for Saudi Arabia's and other Persian Gulf countries' voluminous and qualitative military purchases? Does Saudi Arabia really need a $17 billion defense budget for its legitimate defense requirements? Is it in harmony with U.S. claims of maintaining a military balance or is it testimony to a special discriminatory arms policy in the Persian Gulf?

Such a policy will only heighten regional differences and boost adventurism and expansionism among the GCC countries. This will strengthen regional instability and crises and again bring the area to the brink of another war of attrition.

Turkmen Foreign Minister Meets Nateq-Nuri

LD2601202293 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Majles Speaker Ahmad Nateq-Nuri and Turkmen Foreign Minister [Khalykberdi] Atayev met today and exchanged views on expanding [bilateral] ties and cooperating in regional and international fields.

During the meeting, the two sides stressed the importance of coordination in adopting common stands in international meetings.

Iranian, Turkmen Ministers Discuss Transportation

LD2601145993 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 26 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA—Expansion of air, land and sea transport between Iran and Turkmenistan was discussed in a meeting with Road and Transport Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia and his Turkmen counterpart Kurbanberdy Khodzhanespesov here Tuesday [26 January].

The two sides agreed that experts of both countries would meet to find ways to facilitate tranport of goods between the two countries by land and sea.

They also expressed pleasure with the progress on the railway project connecting the two countries.